

Eric Jonas

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University of Chicago

@stochastician  
ericj@uchicago.edu

# Machine learning of chemical environments

# molecular inverse problems

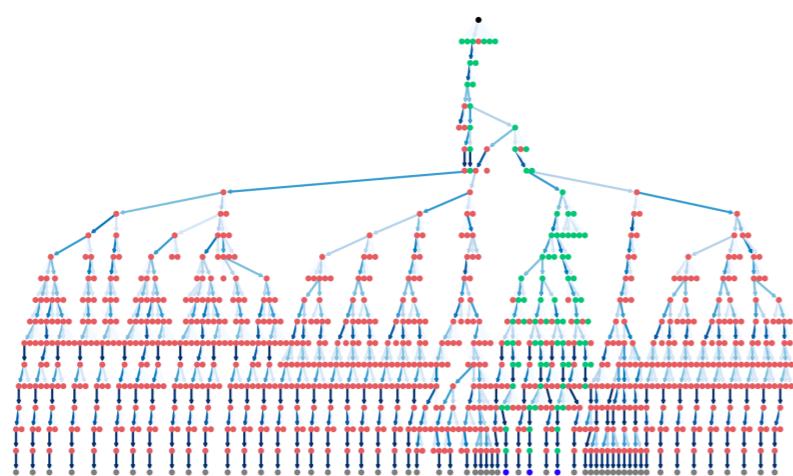
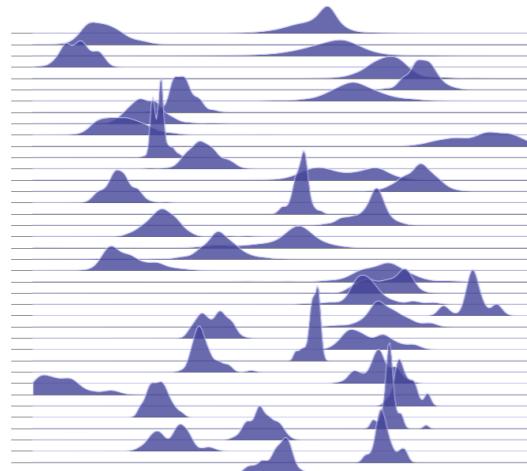
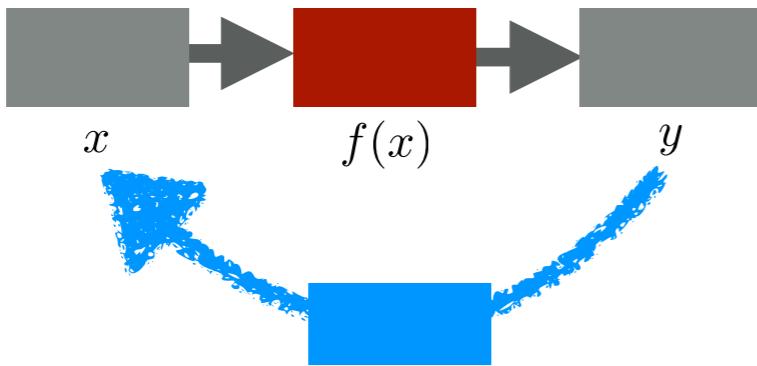
Spectroscopy and RDKit

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# TODAY

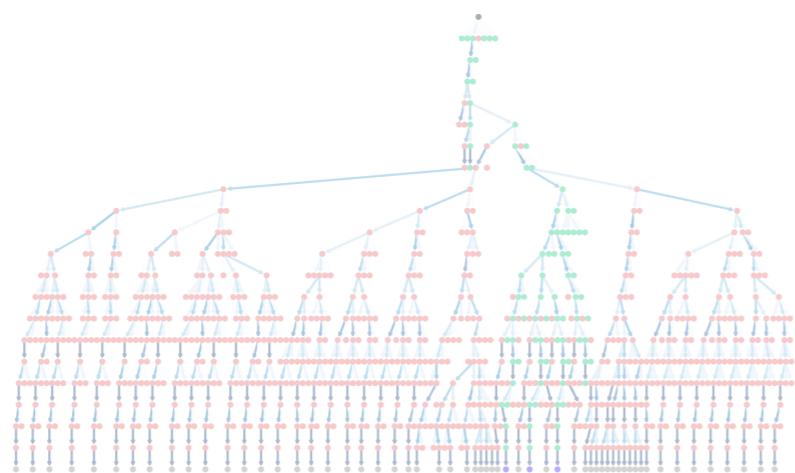
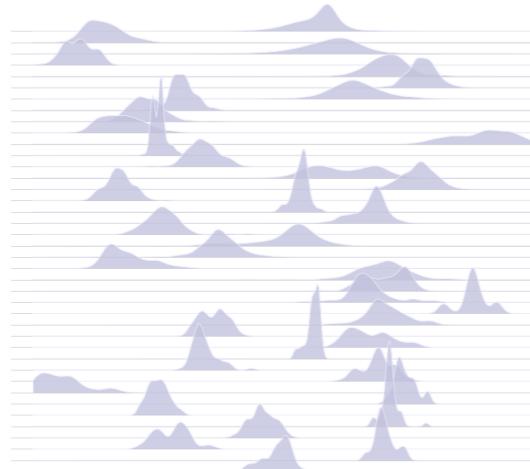
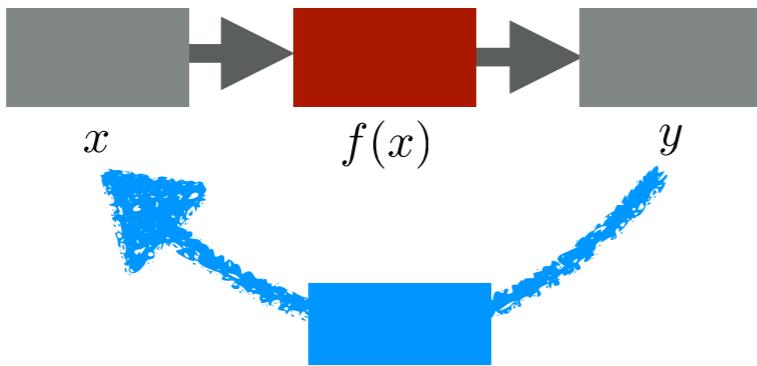


What are  
inverse problems?

Spectroscopy:  
The forward problem

Spectroscopy:  
The inverse problem

# TODAY



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inverse problems?

Spectroscopy:  
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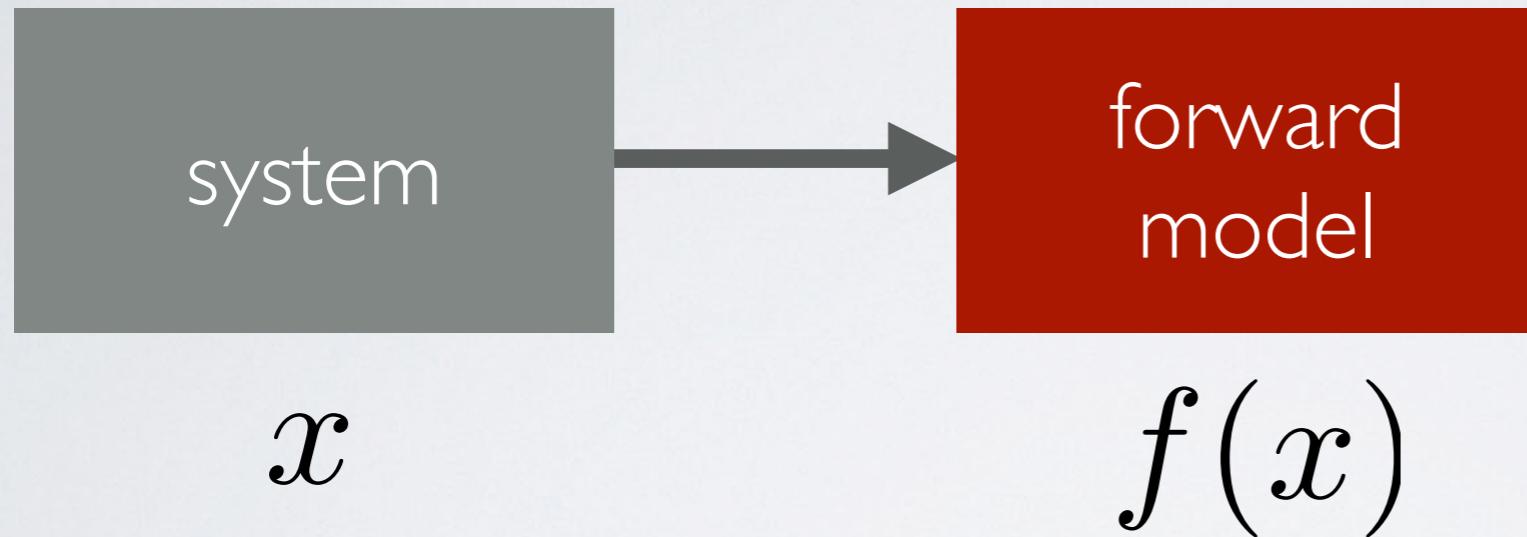
What is an  
**INVERSE PROBLEM?**

# What is an INVERSE PROBLEM?

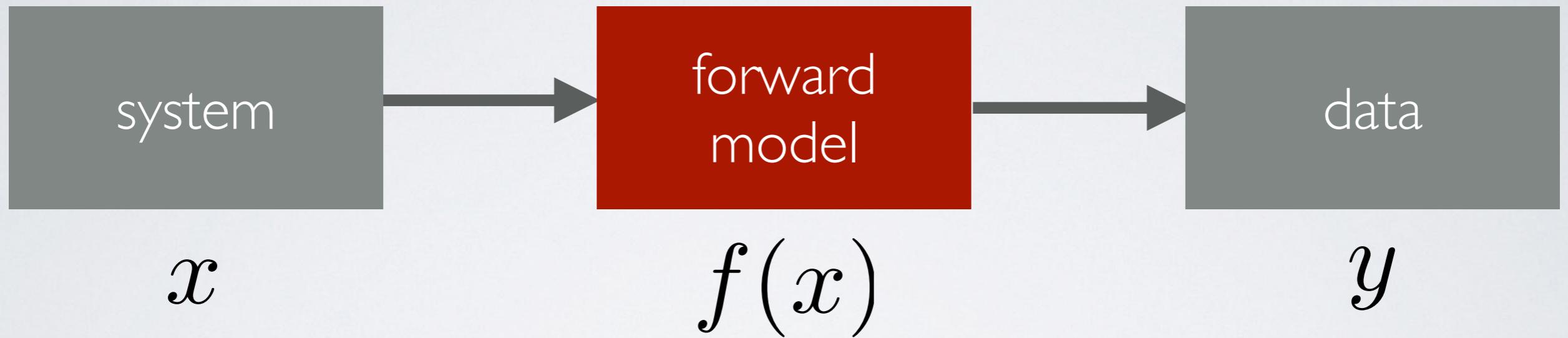
system

$x$

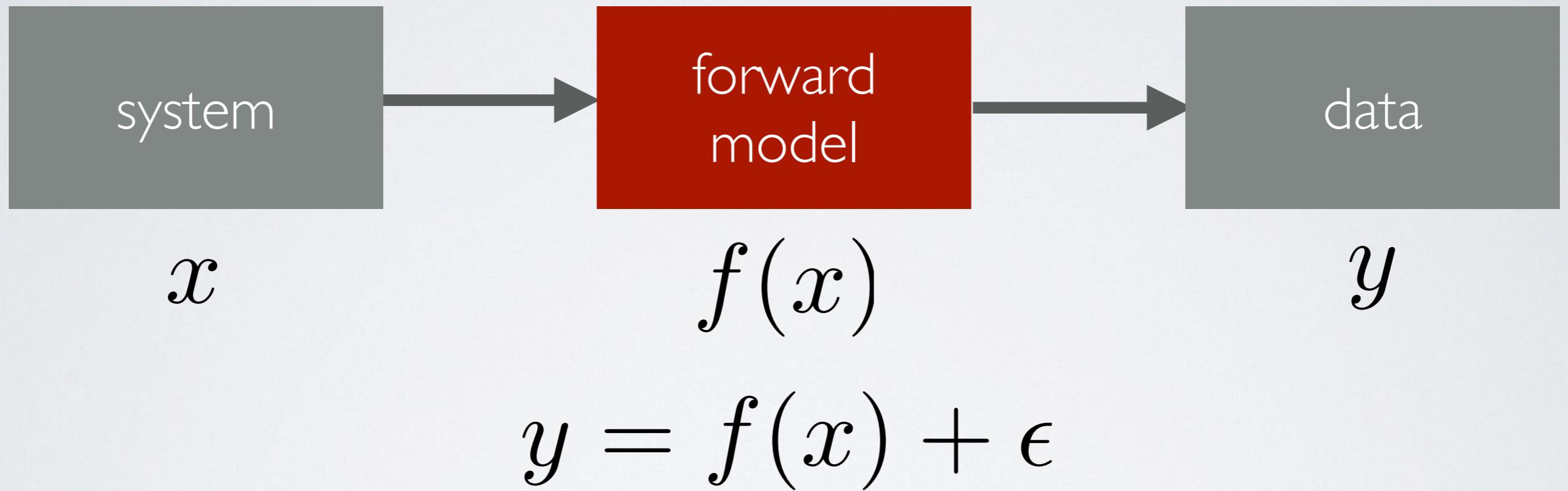
# What is an INVERSE PROBLEM?



# What is an INVERSE PROBLEM?



# What is an INVERSE PROBLEM?



# What is an INVERSE PROBLEM?

*very well  
understood!*



$x$

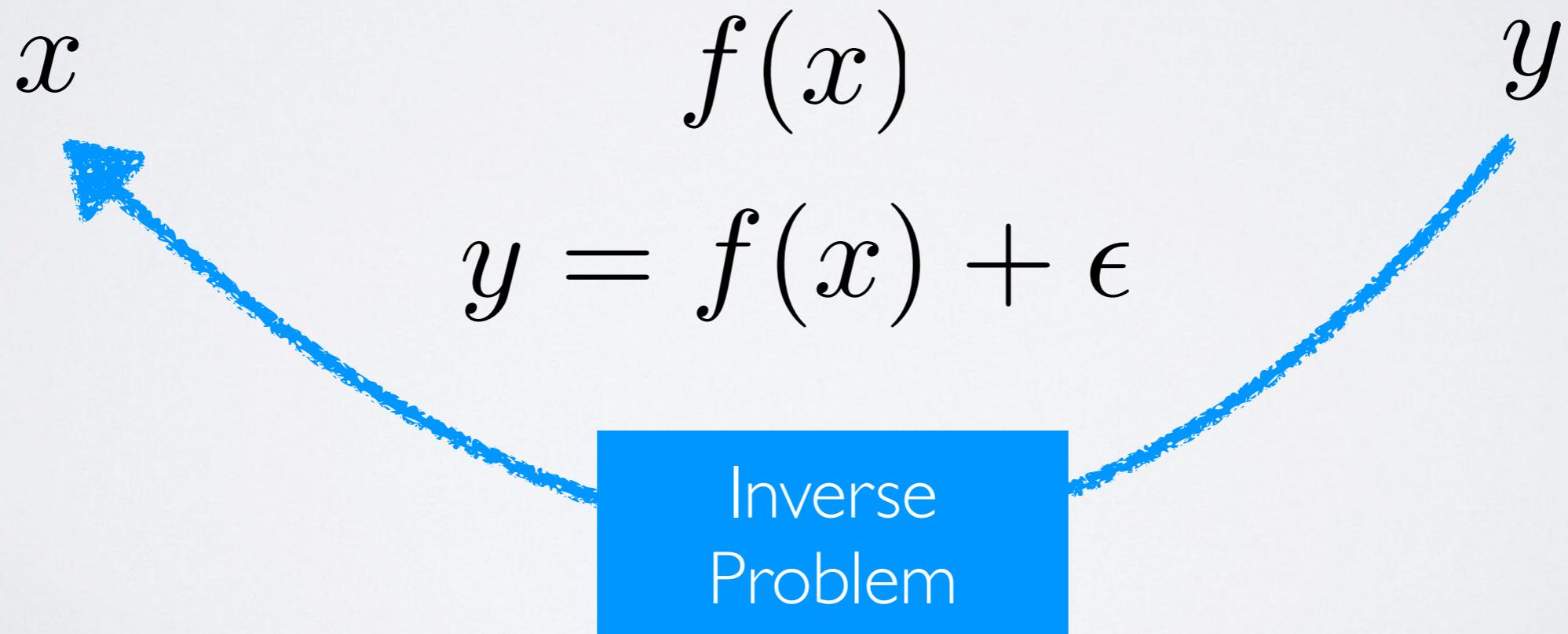
$f(x)$

$y$

$$y = f(x) + \epsilon$$

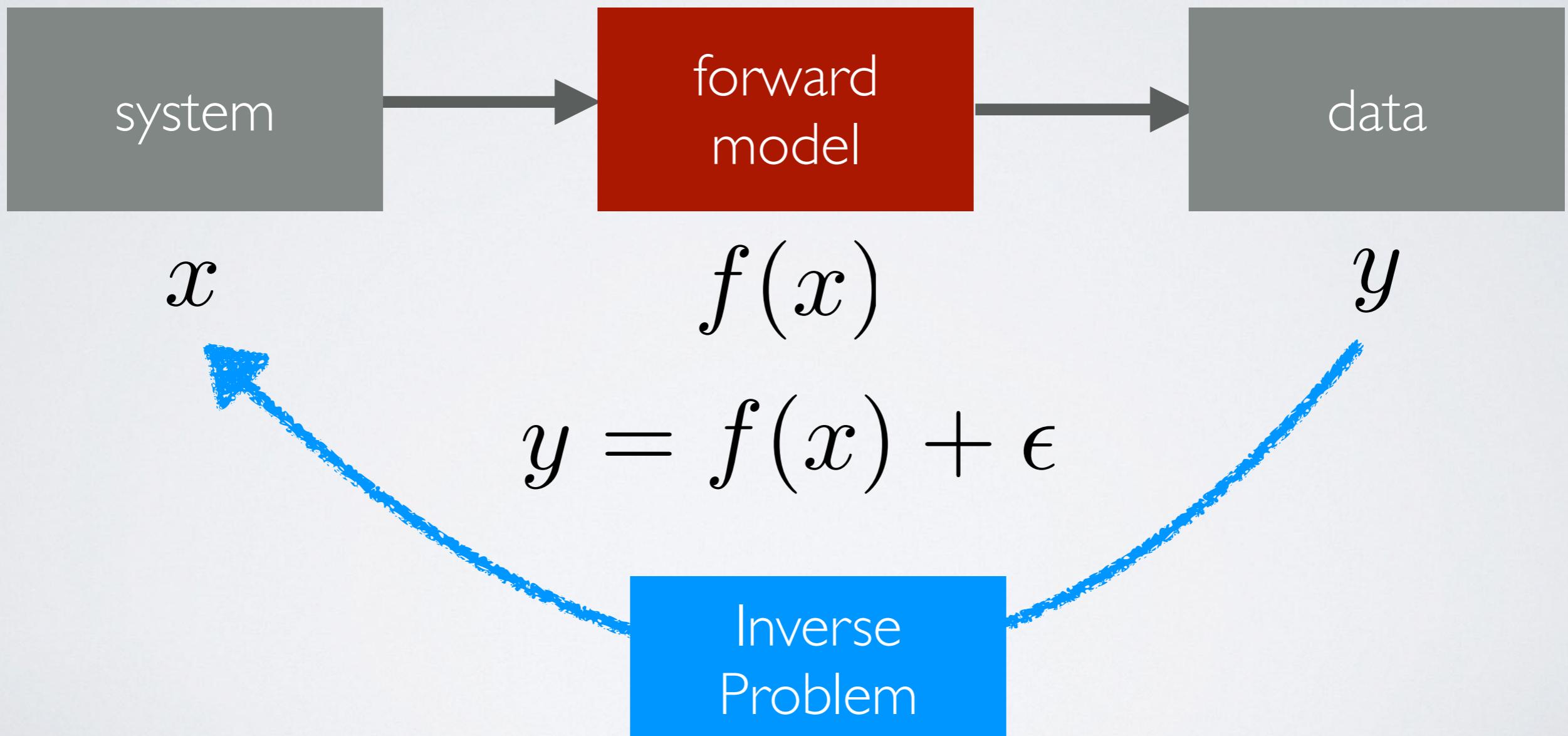
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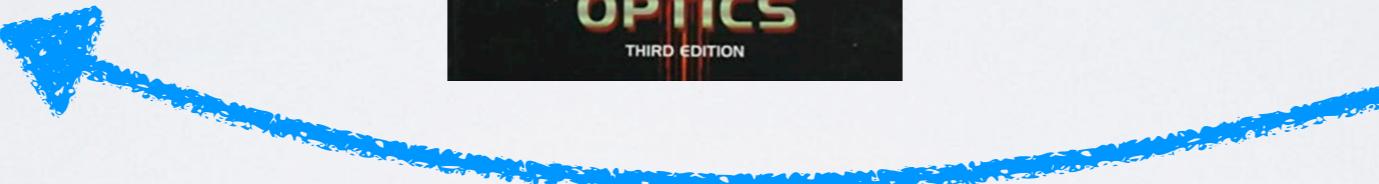
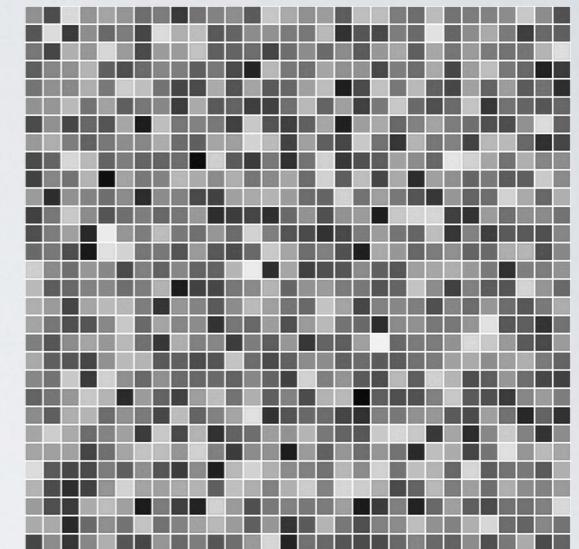
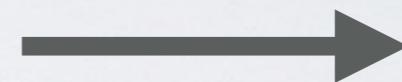
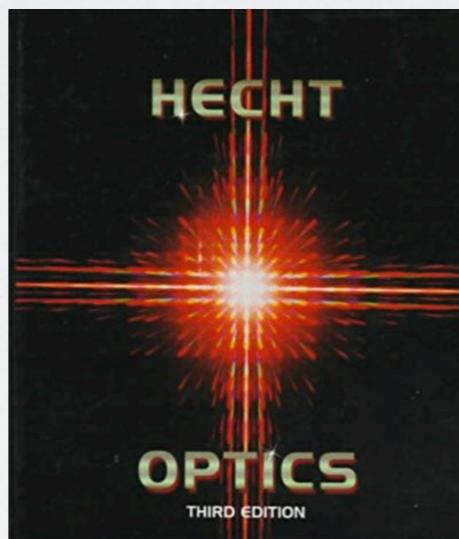
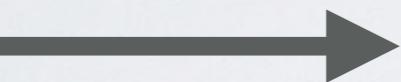
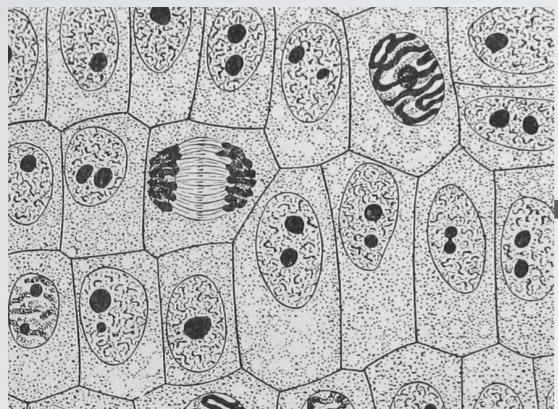
Crucial distinction: **single correct answer**

# EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

Microscopy

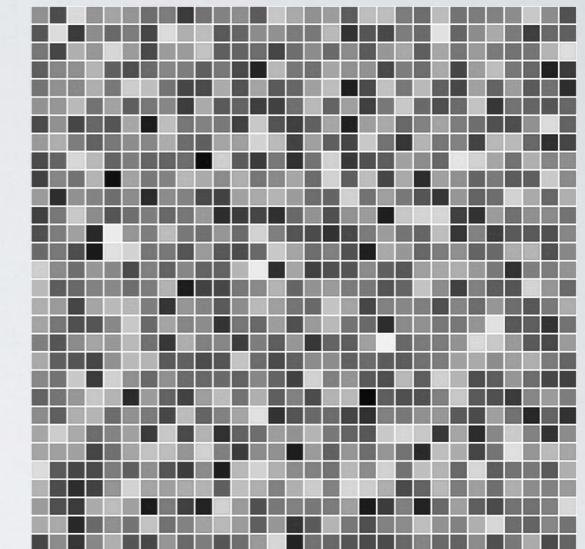
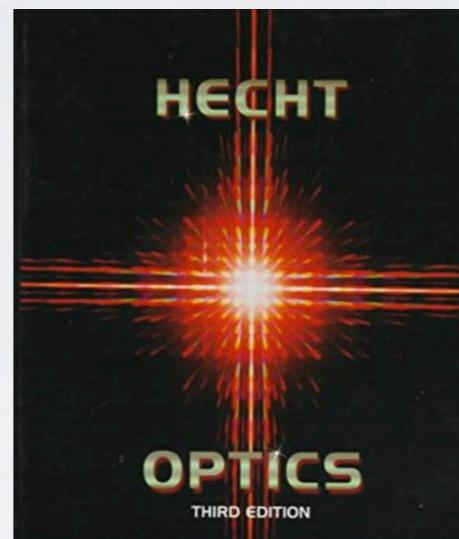
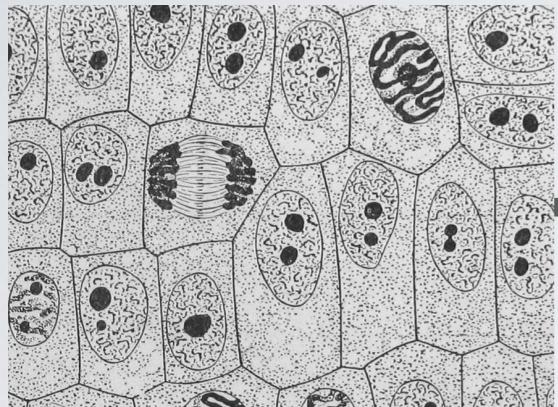
# EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

Microscopy

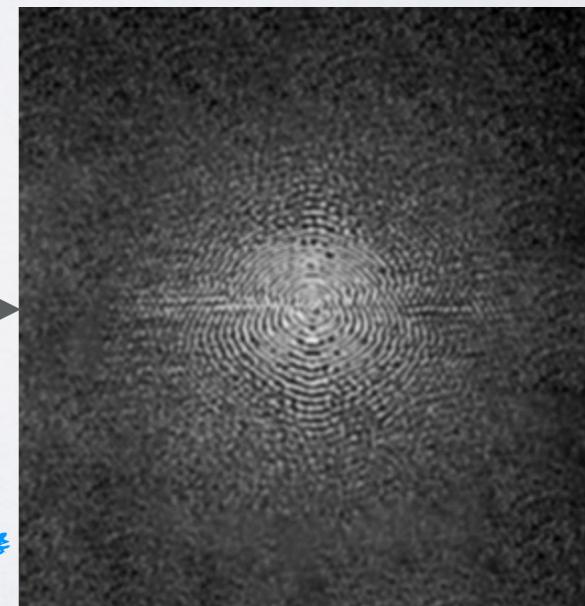


# EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

## Microscopy

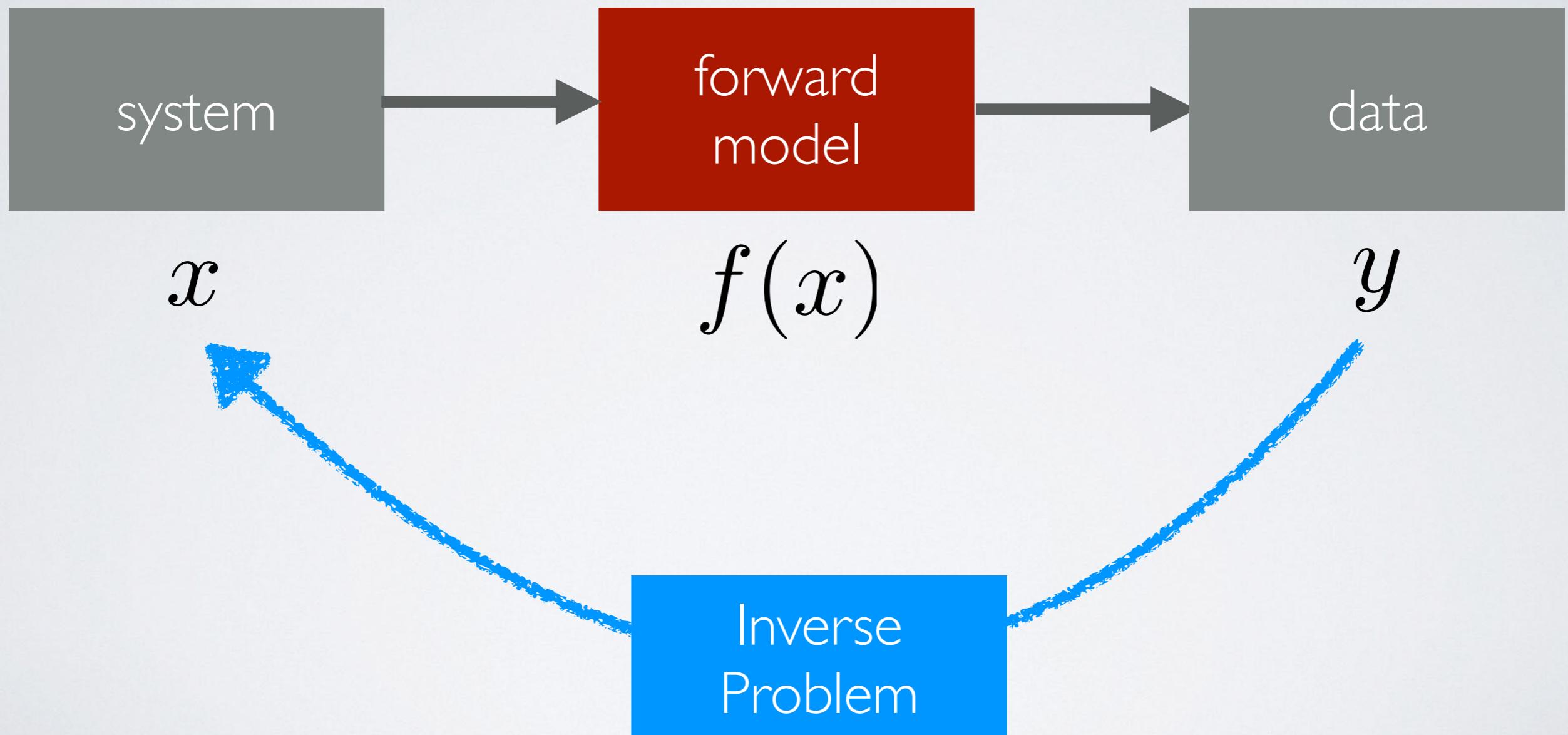


## Magnetic Resonance Imaging

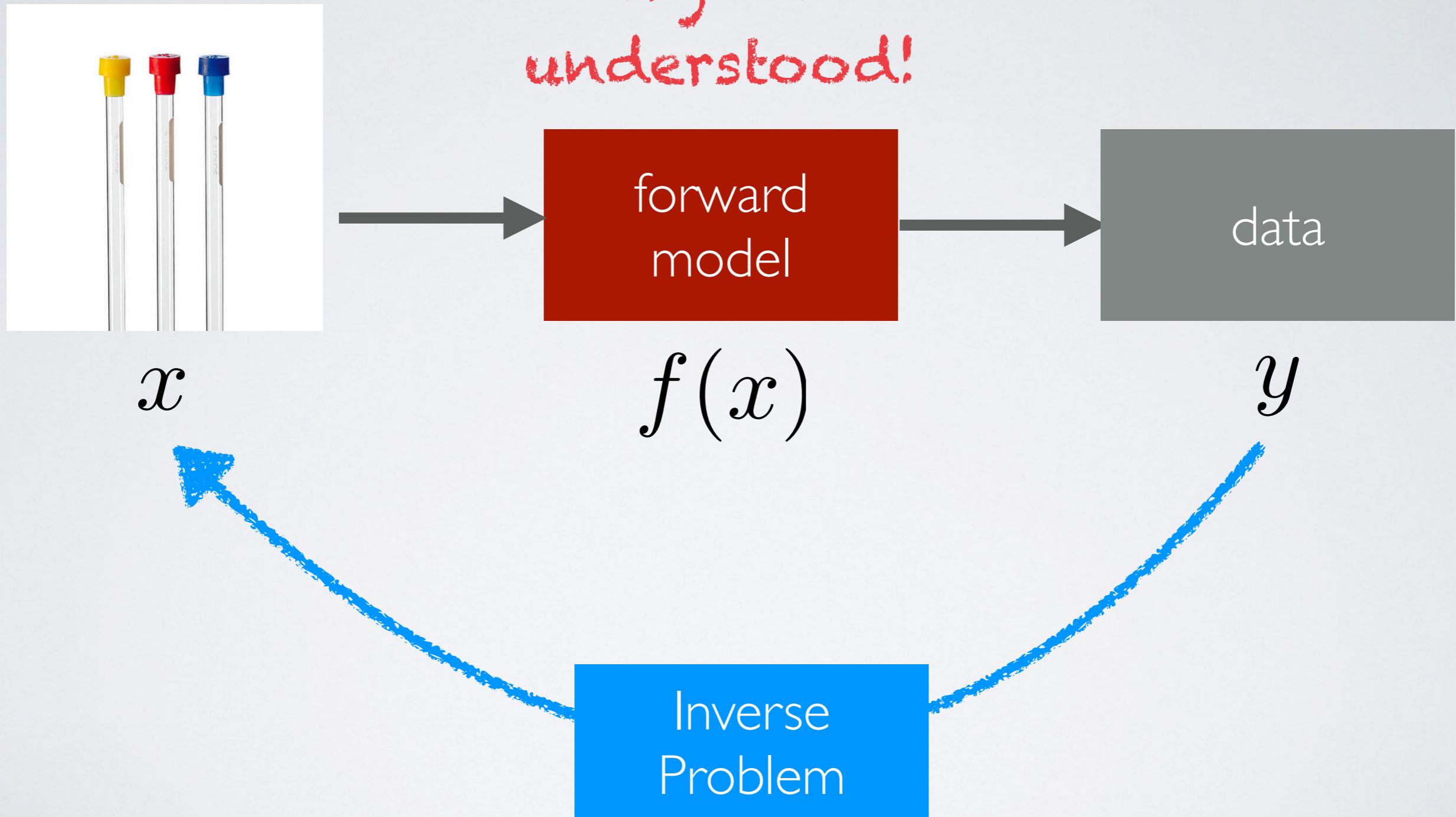


# Spectroscopy as an INVERSE PROBLEM

very well  
understood!



# Spectroscopy as an INVERSE PROBLEM



# Spectroscopy as an INVERSE PROBLEM



$x$

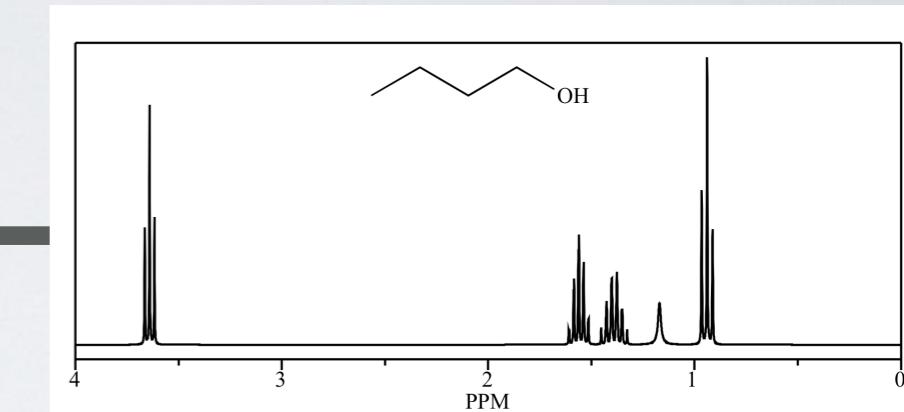
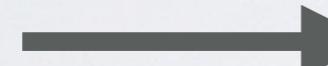


$y$

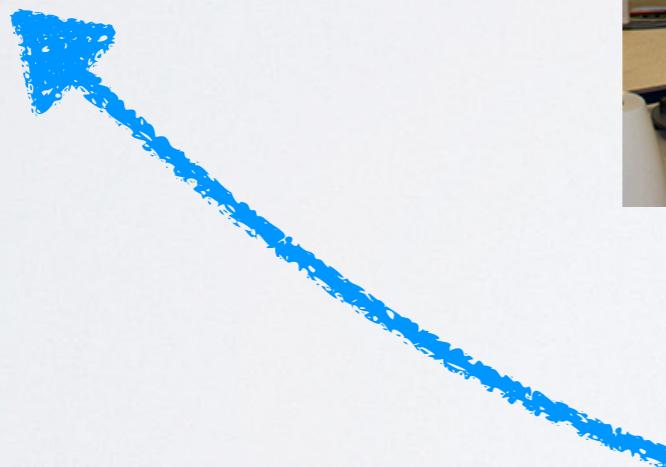


Inverse  
Problem

# Spectroscopy as an INVERSE PROBLEM



*x*

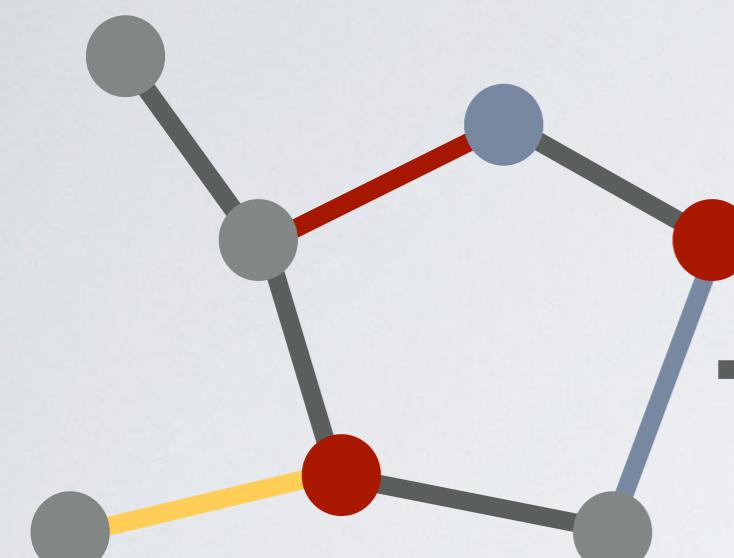


Inverse  
Problem

*y*



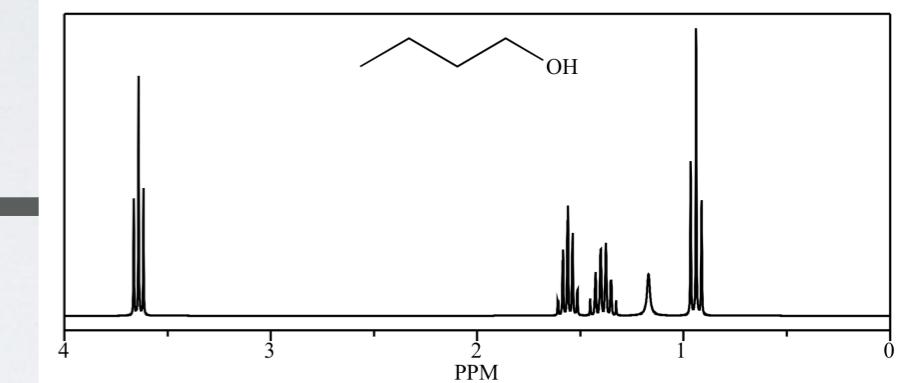
# Spectroscopy as an INVERSE PROBLEM



$x$



Inverse  
Problem



$y$



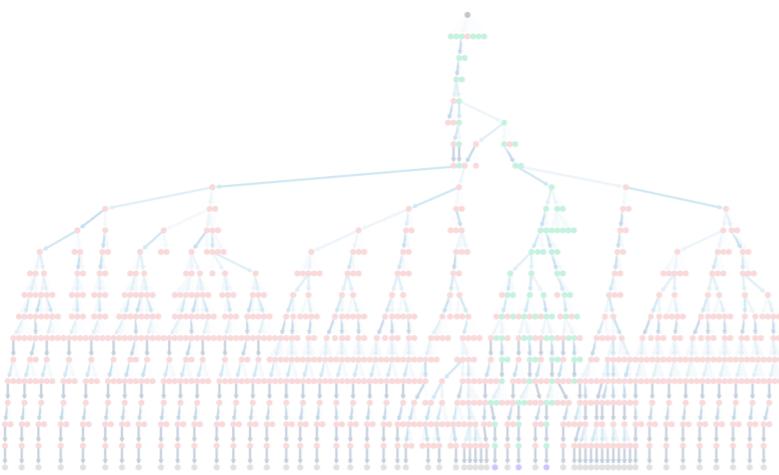
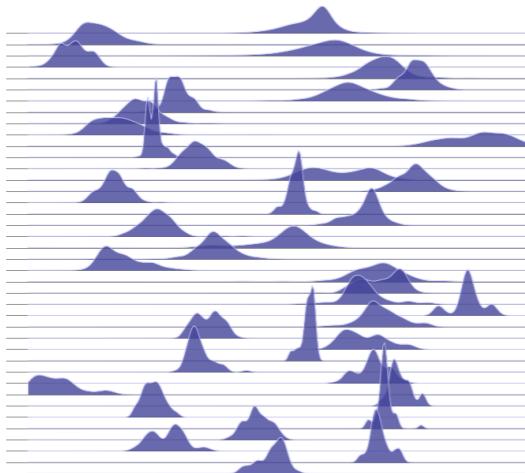
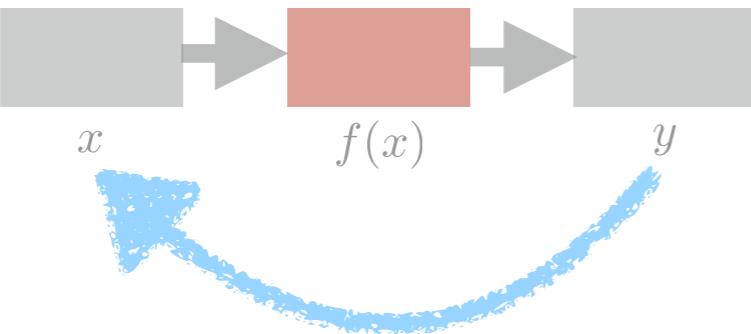
# QUESTIONS FROM COMPUTER SCIENCE

How can we **recover graphs** from  
**measurements of their parts?**

What is the best **representation of uncertainty** over graph structures?

What is the **optimal sequence of measurements** to identify a graph?

# TODAY

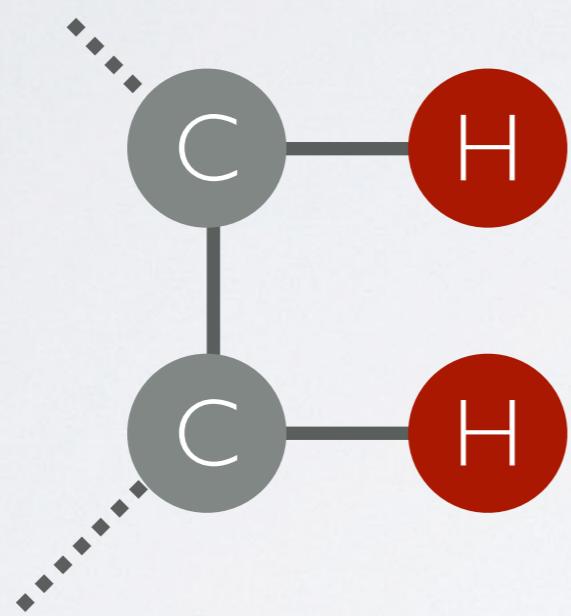


What are  
inverse problems?

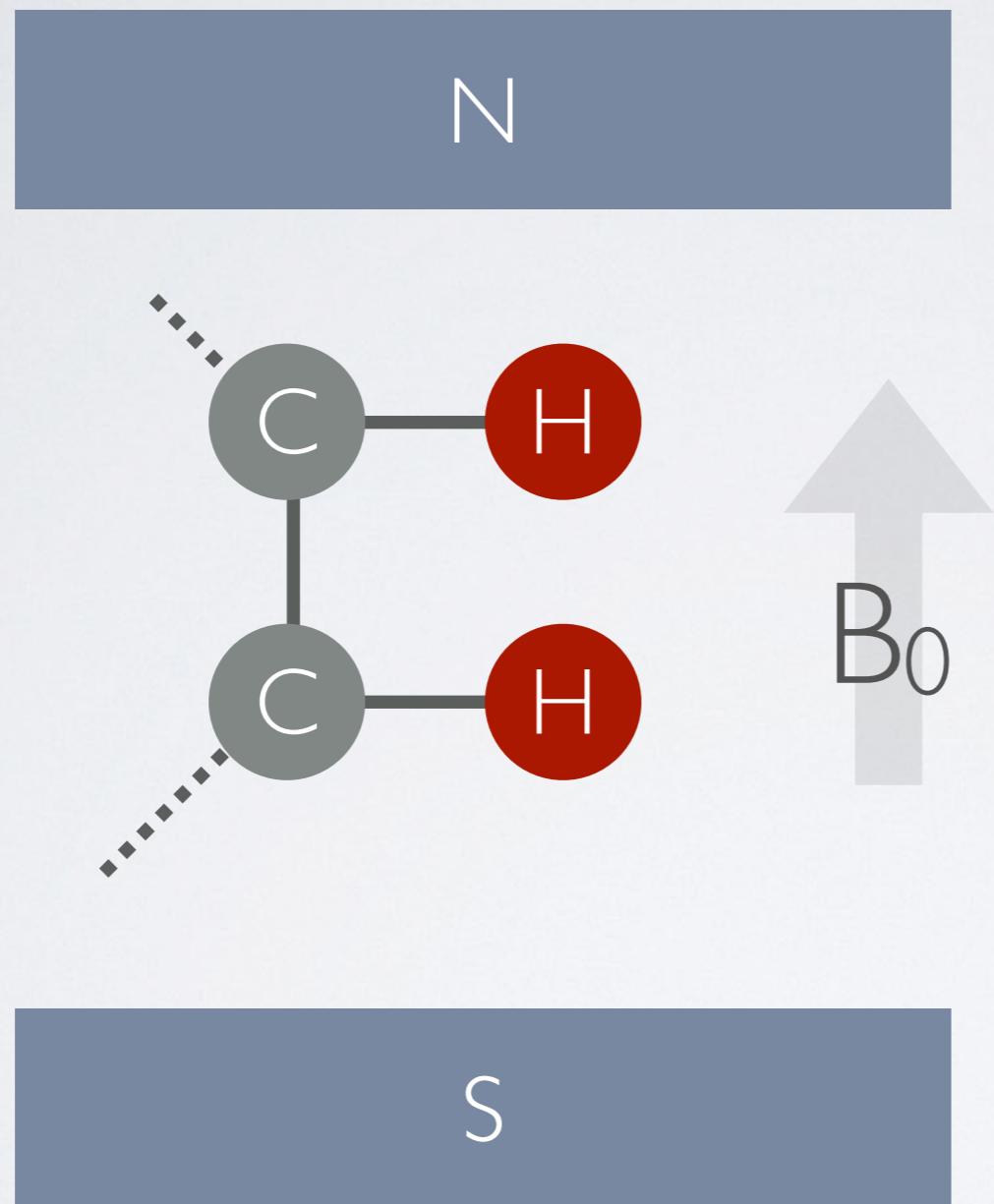
Spectroscopy:  
The forward problem

Spectroscopy:  
The inverse problem

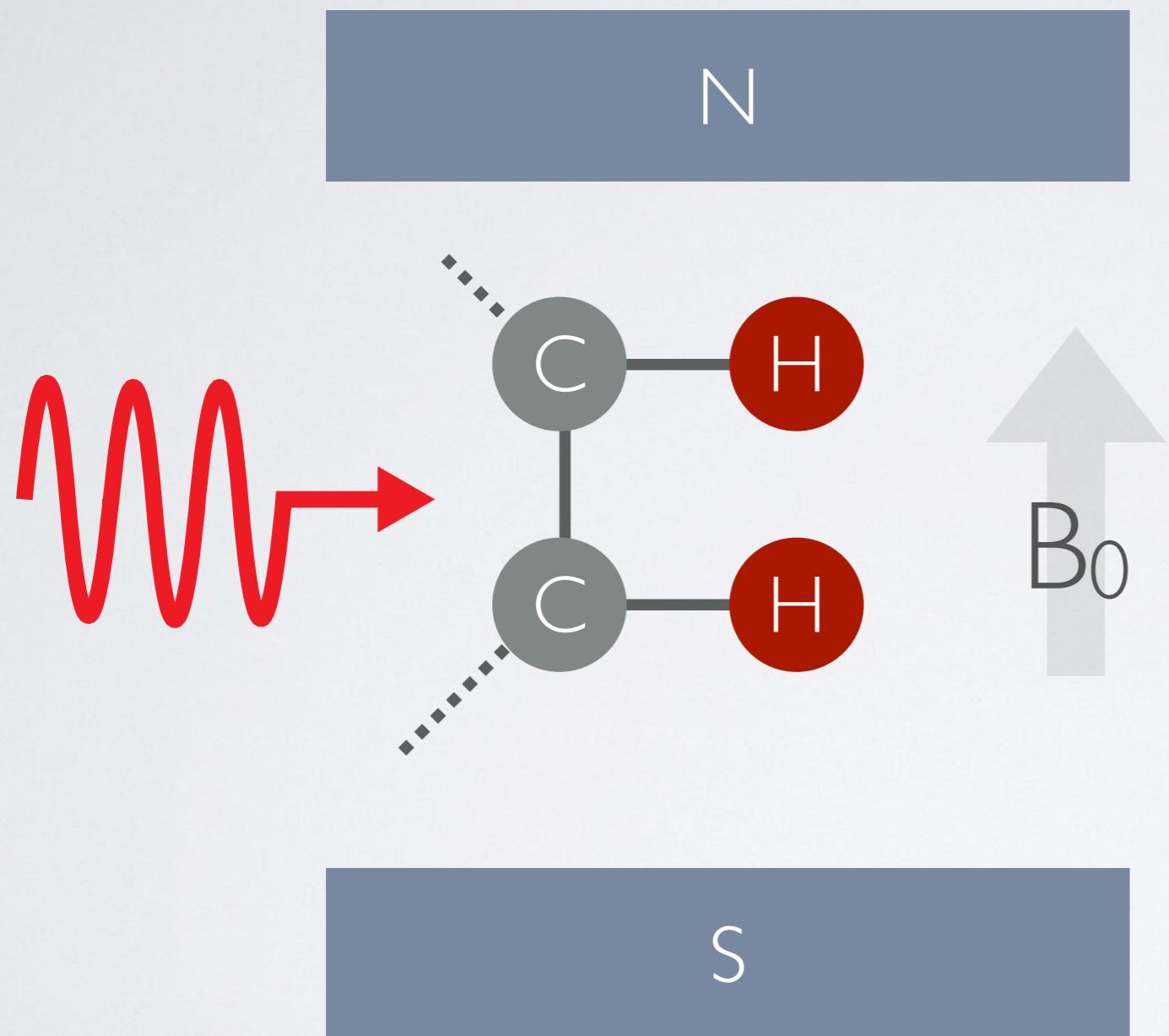
# HOW DOES NMR WORK?



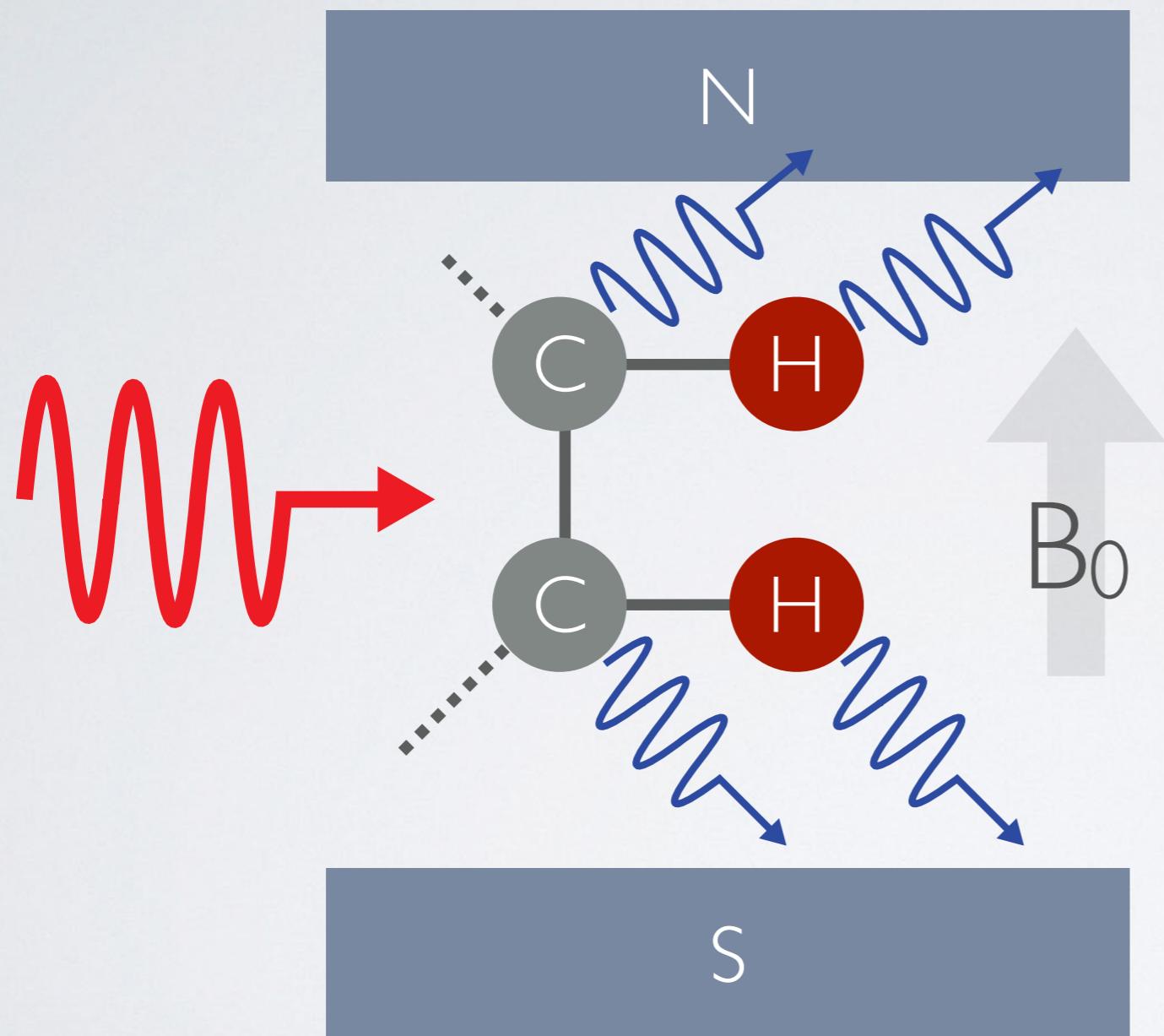
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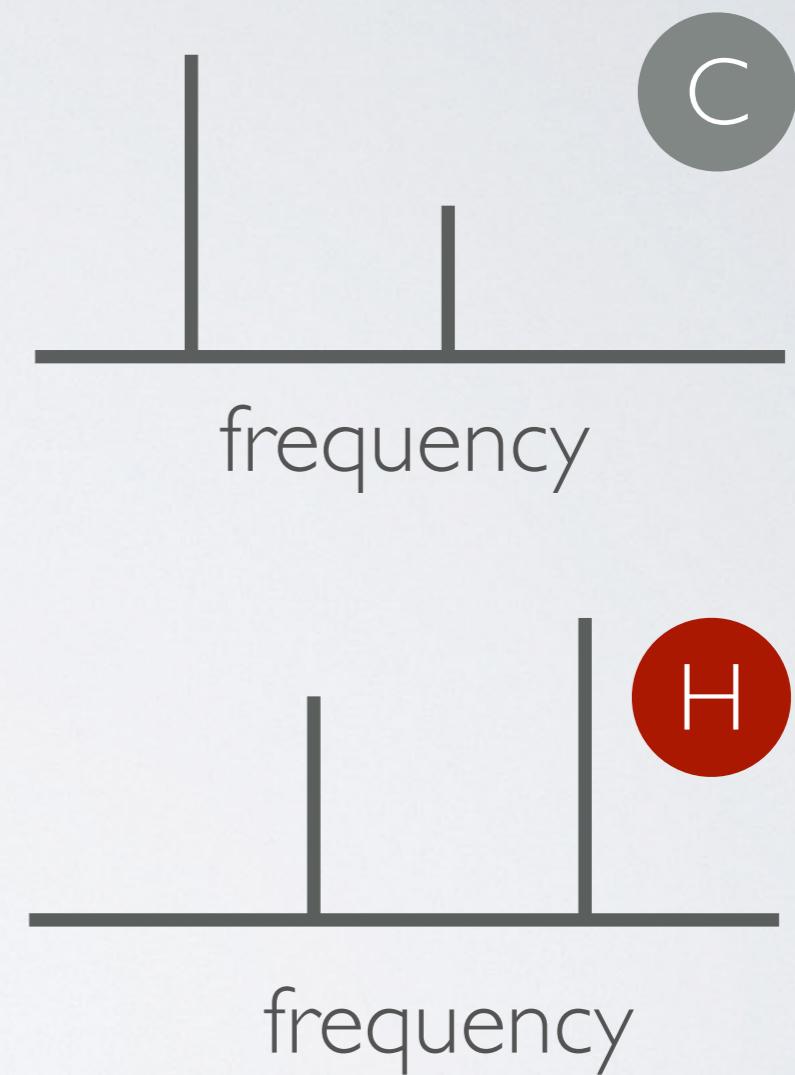
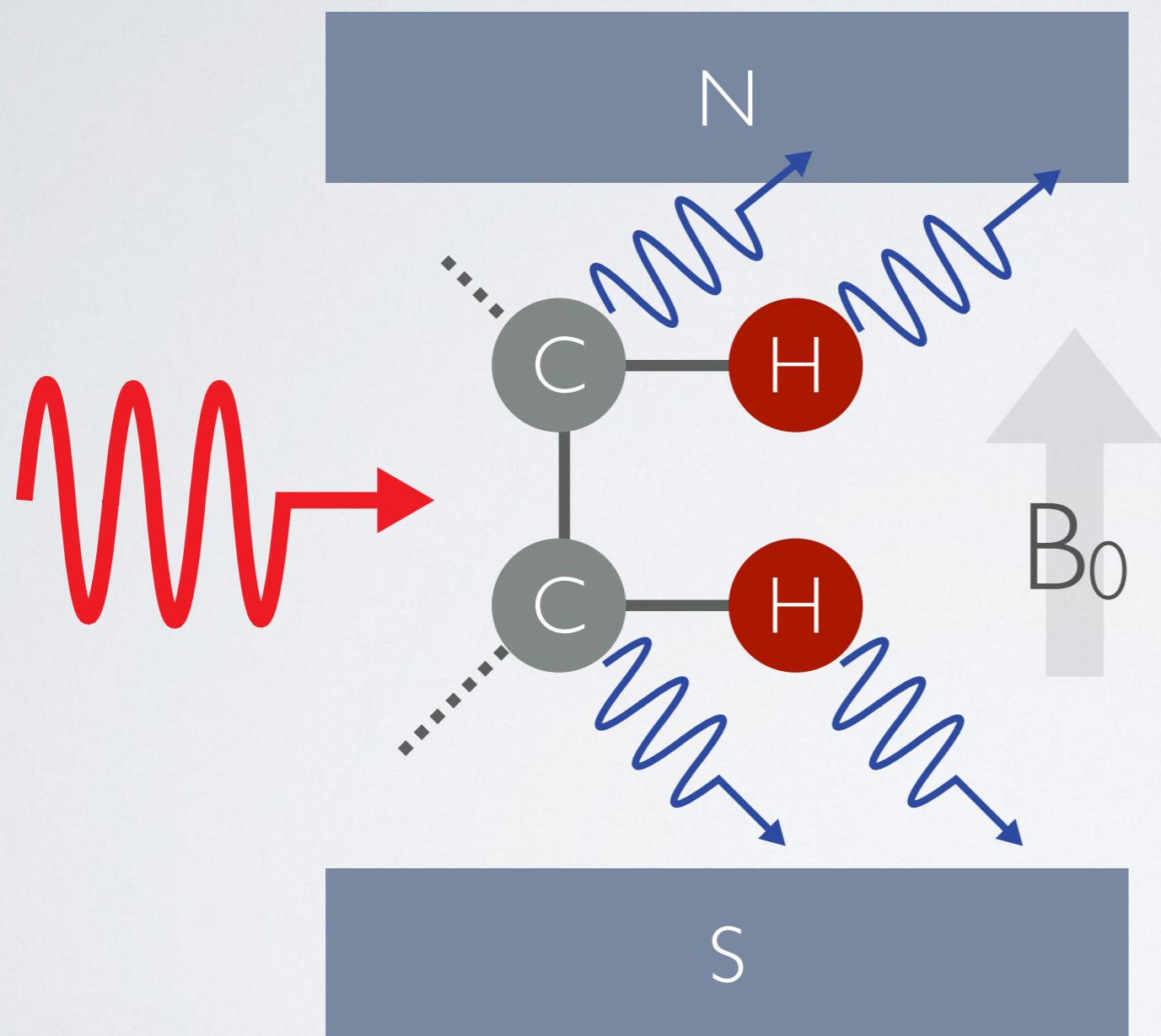
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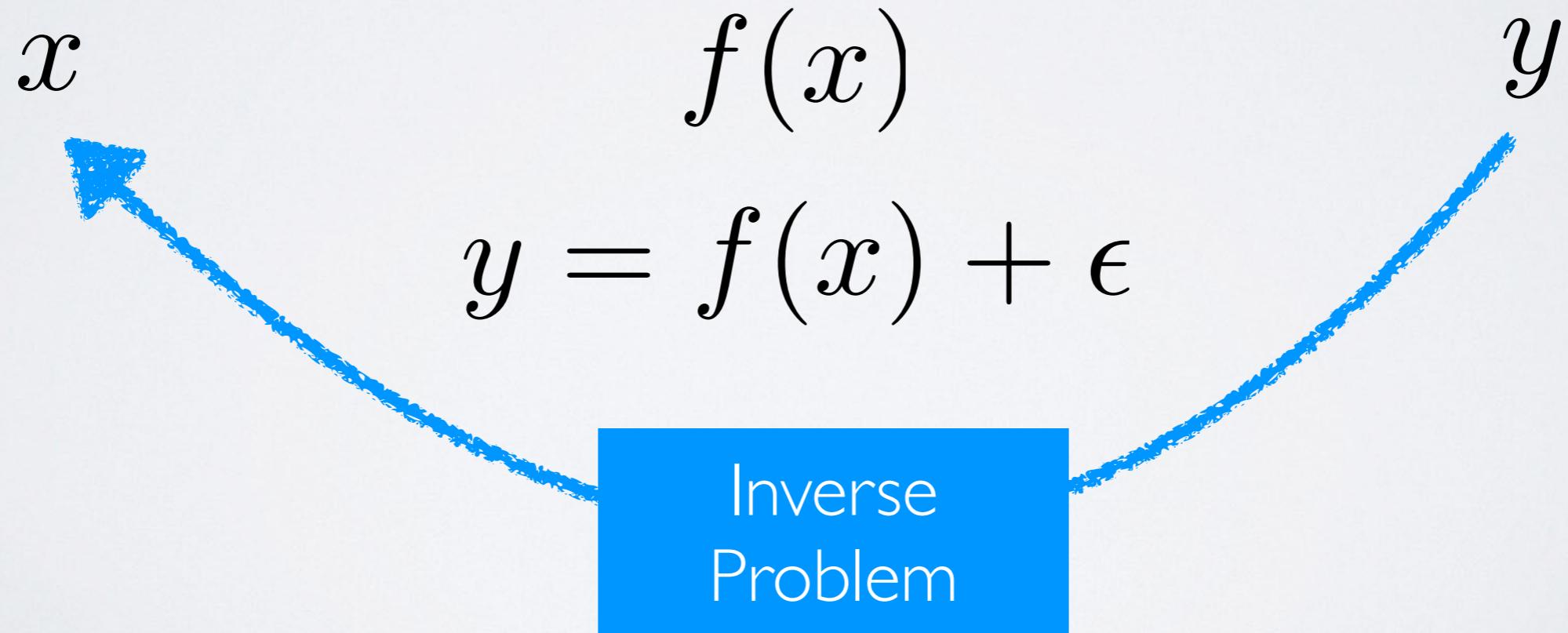
# HOW DOES NMR WORK?



# HOW DOES NMR WORK?



very well  
understood!



very well  
understood!

forward  
model

$$f(x)$$

very well  
understood!

Is it?

forward  
model

$$f(x)$$

# FORWARD MODEL

Via computational chemistry

# FORWARD MODEL

Via computational chemistry

Conformer Search

# FORWARD MODEL

Via computational chemistry

Conformer Search



# FORWARD MODEL

Via computational chemistry

Conformer Search



DFT Geometry  
Optimization

# FORWARD MODEL

Via computational chemistry

Conformer Search



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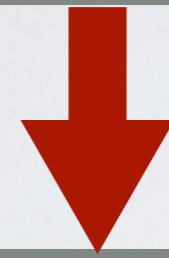


DFT GIAO Calculation  
of Spectral Params

# FORWARD MODEL

Via computational chemistry

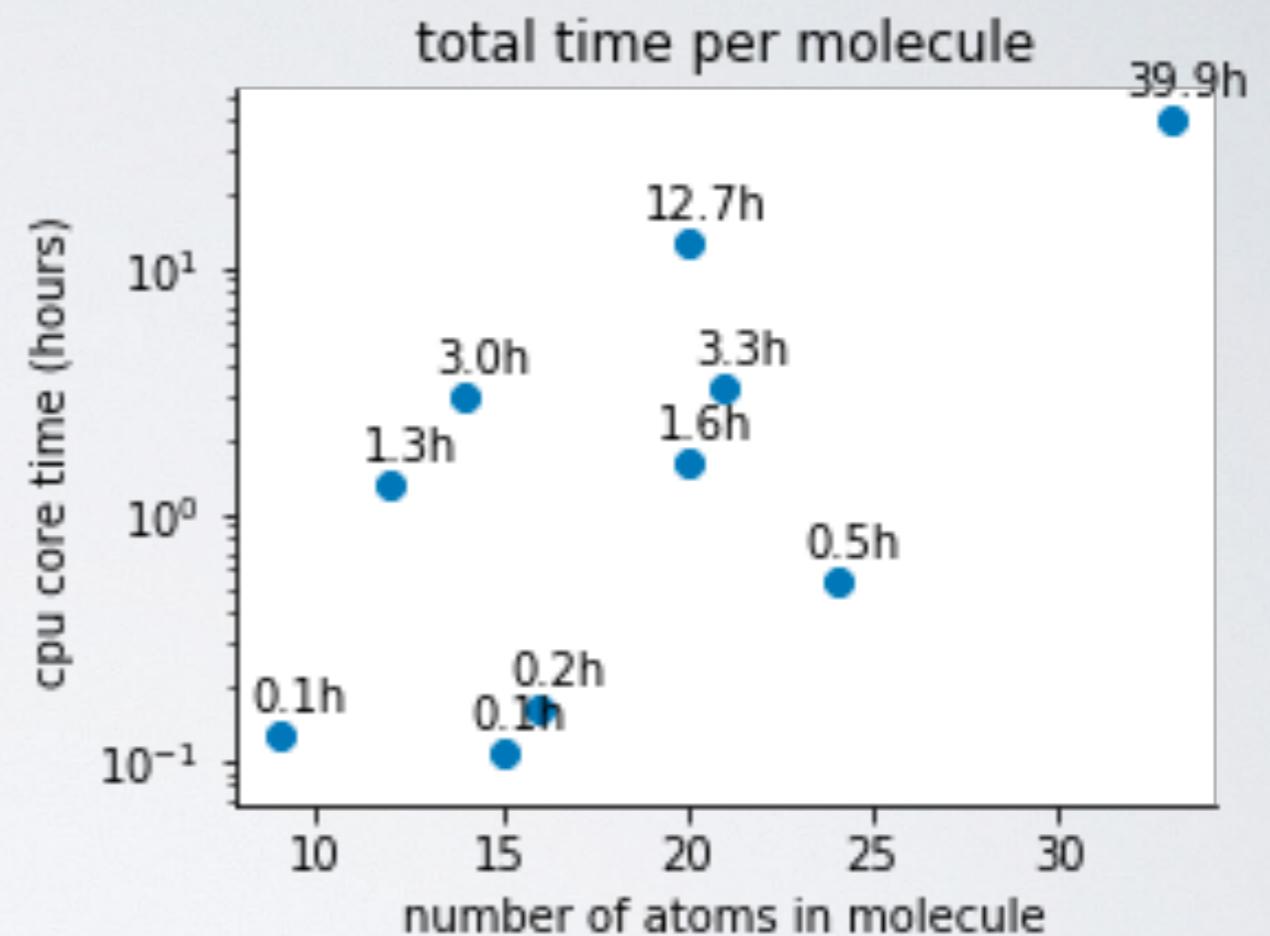
Conformer Search



DFT Geometry  
Optimization



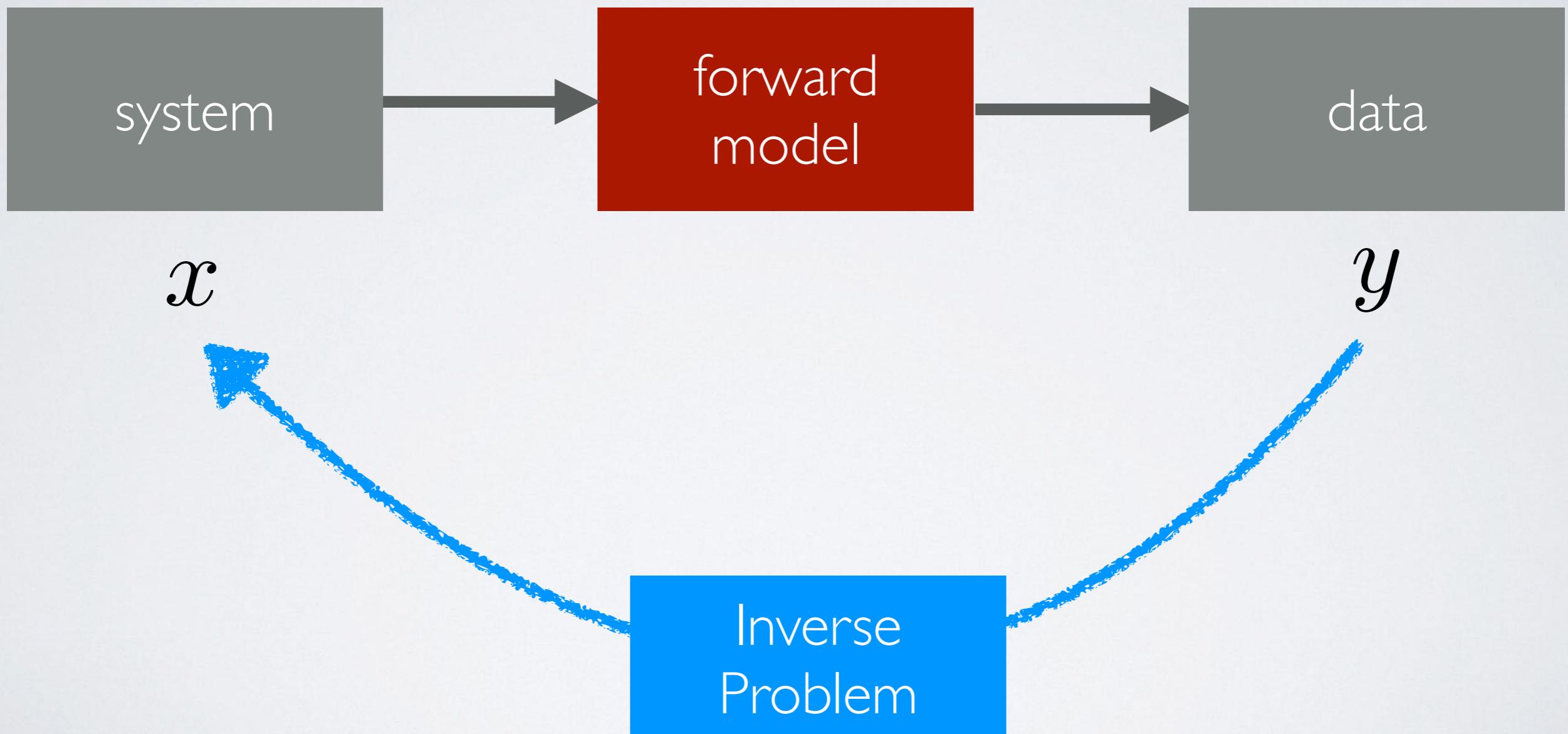
DFT GIAO Calculation  
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Ab initio  
is sloooow

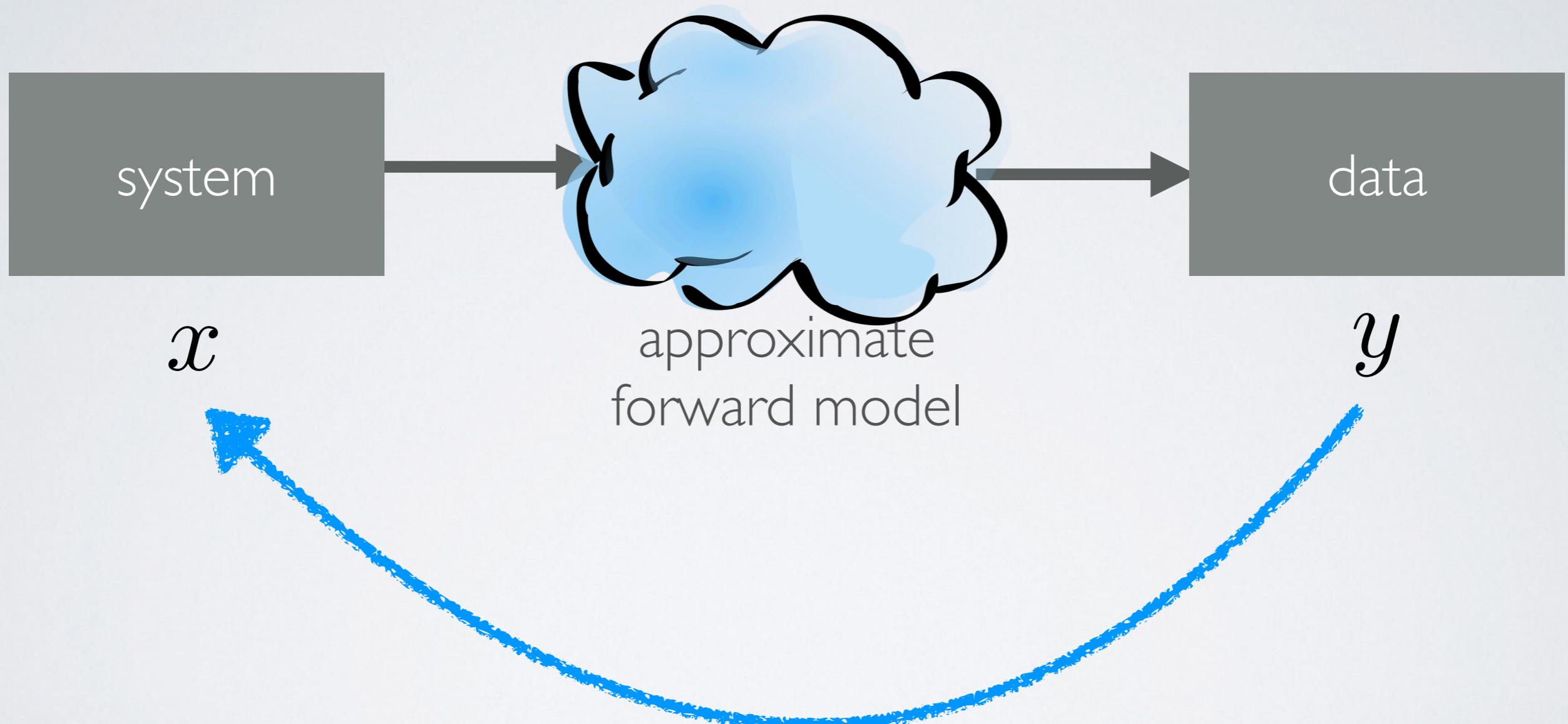
# SO OUR APPROACH

Jonas, E. & Kuhn, S. **Rapid prediction of NMR spectral properties with quantified uncertainty**, J Cheminform (2019) 11: 50

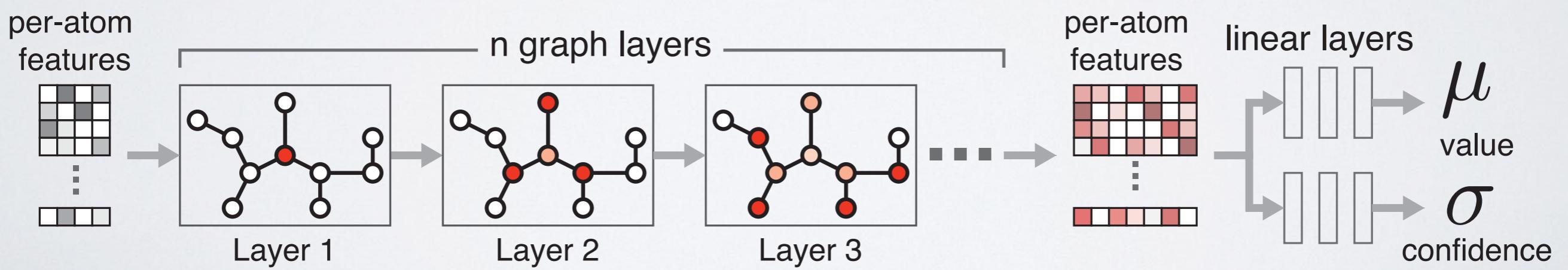
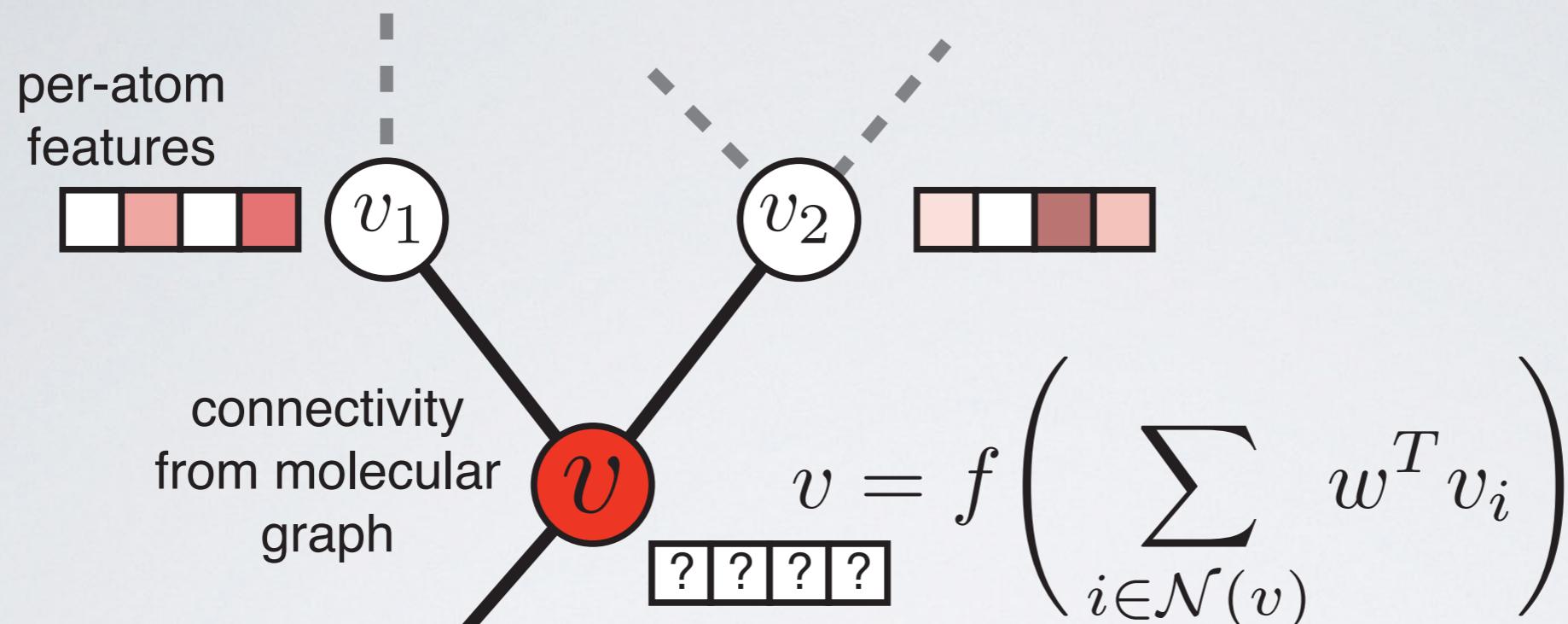


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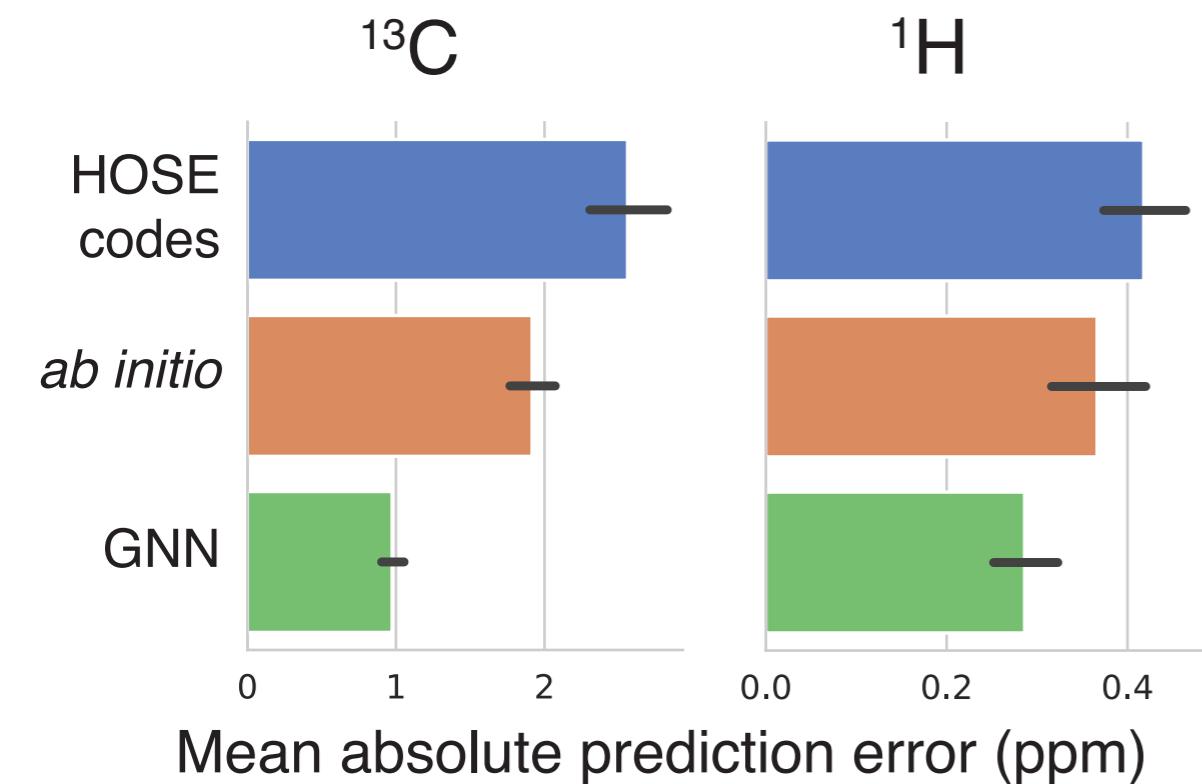
# GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS



# COMPARISON

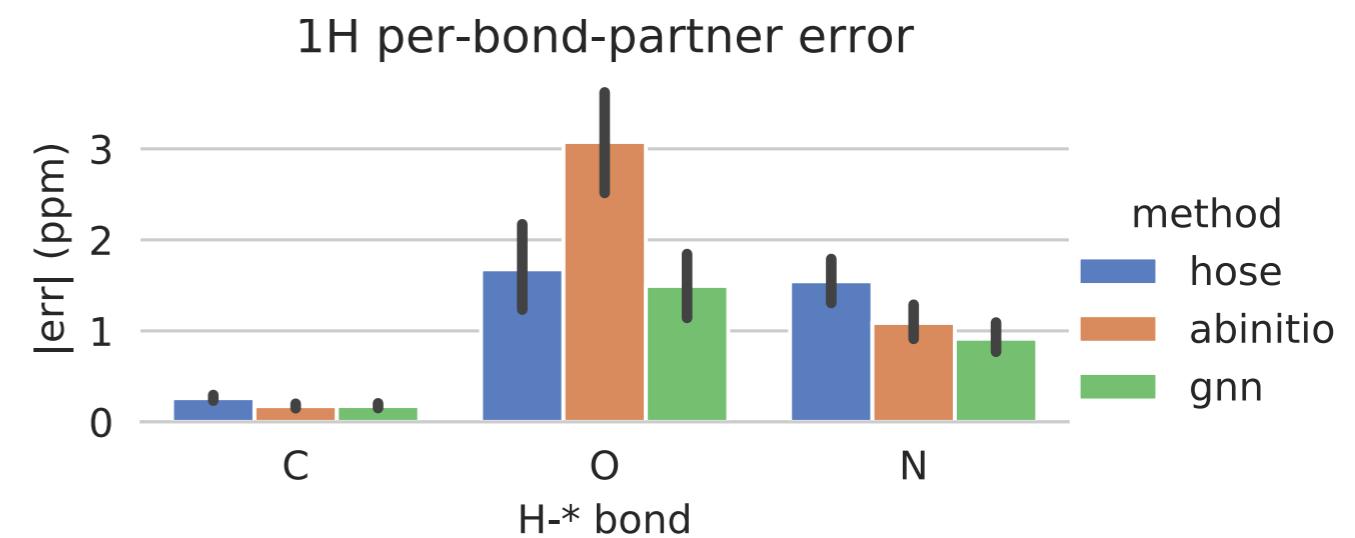
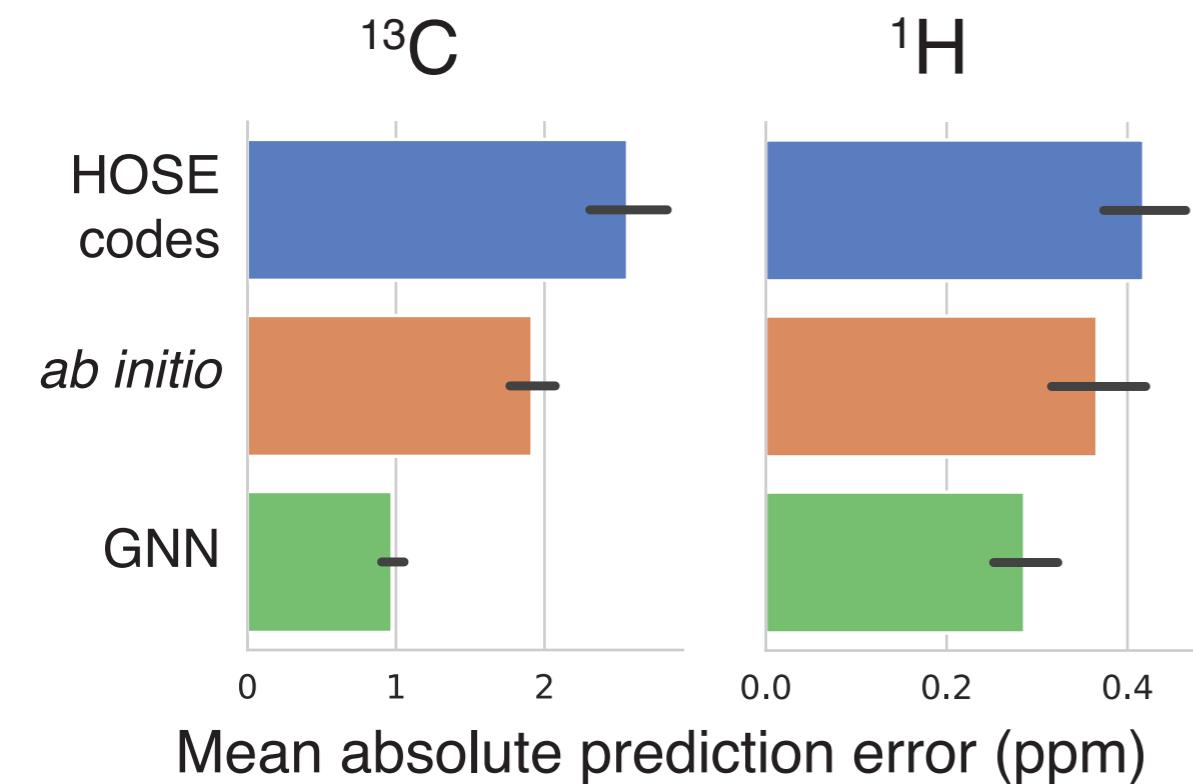
(all error bars are bootstrap 95% confidence interval of mean)

# COMPARISON



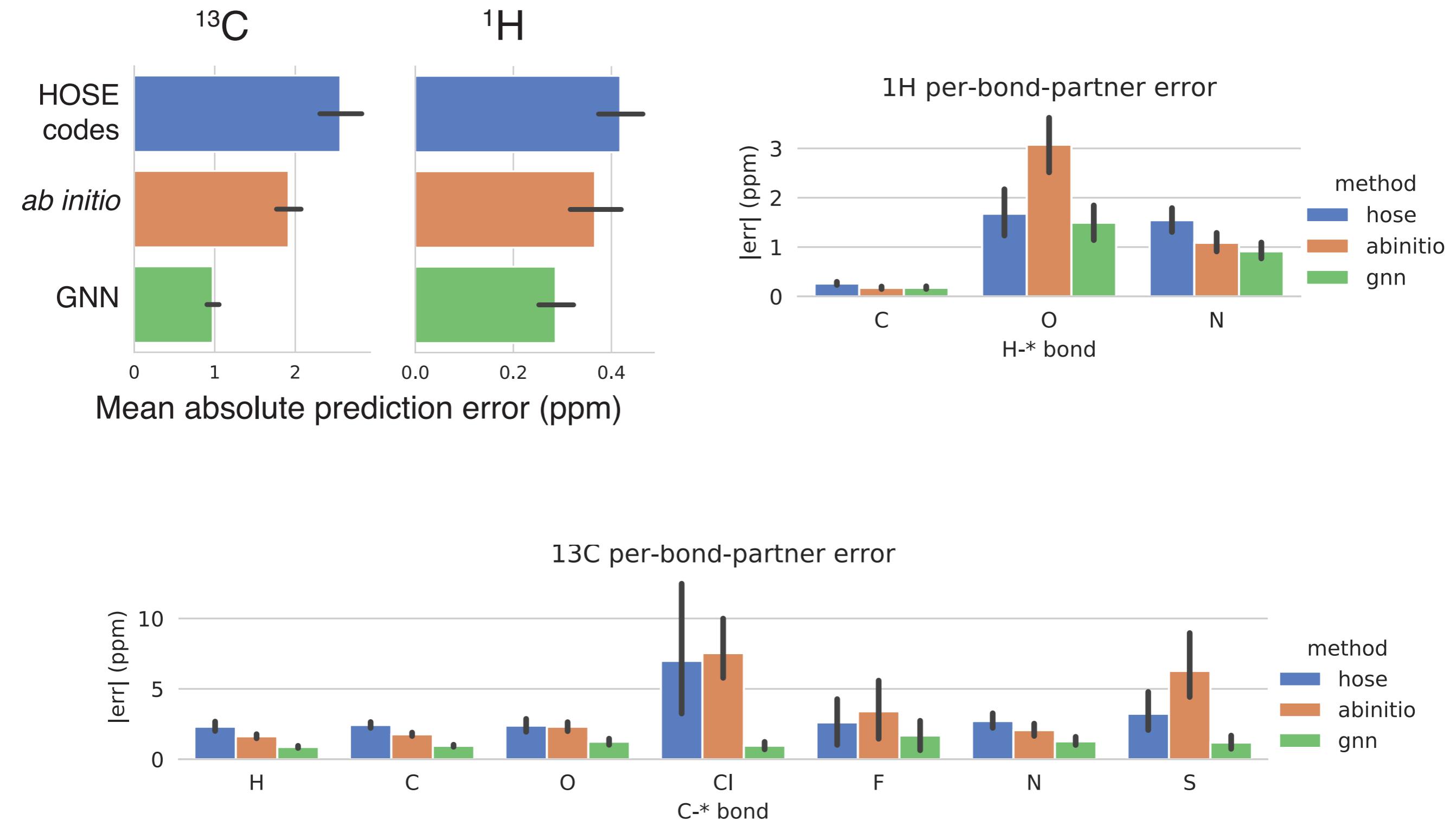
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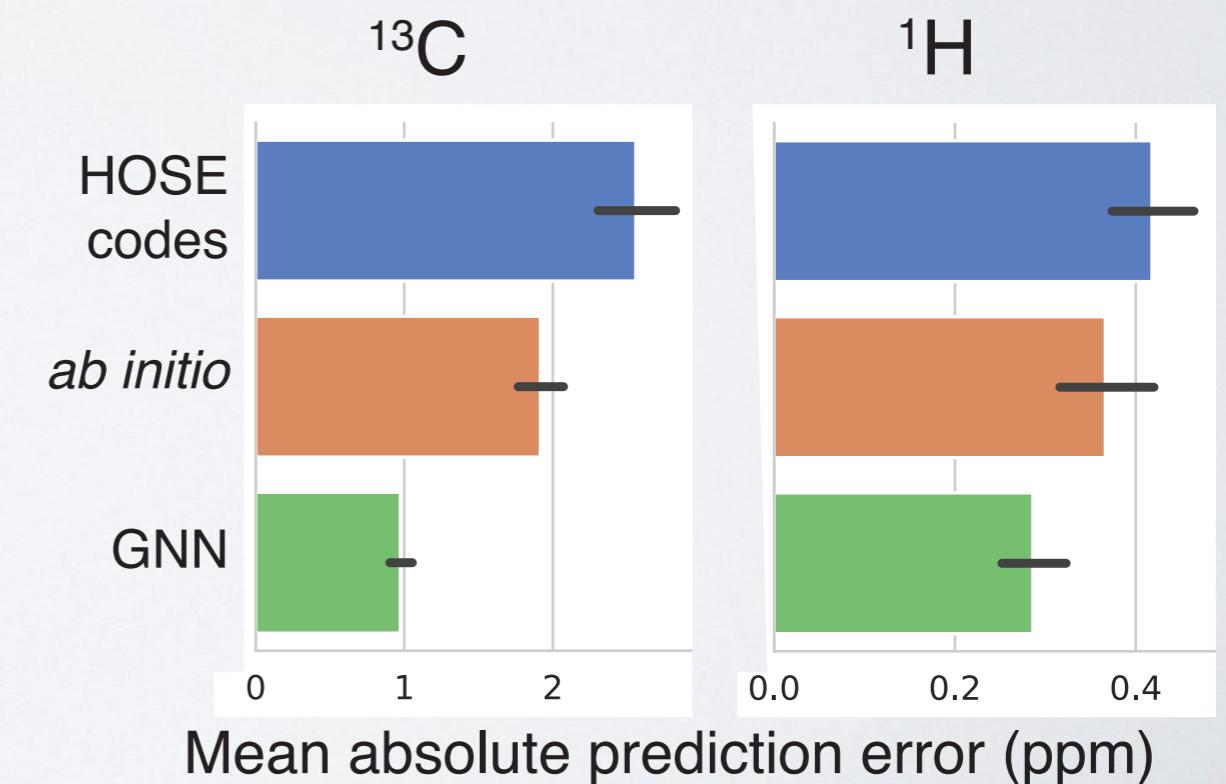
FAST AND ACCURATE

# FAST AND ACCURATE

| Method            | note            | per-mol | per-nucleus |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|
| GNN <sup>1</sup>  |                 | 3.6 ms  | 56 $\mu$ s  |
| HOSE <sup>2</sup> | <sup>13</sup> C | 29 ms   | 2 ms        |
|                   | <sup>1</sup> H  | 34 ms   | 4 ms        |
| DFT <sup>3</sup>  | geom. opt       | 556 sec | 36 sec      |
|                   | GIAO            | 256 sec | 16 sec      |

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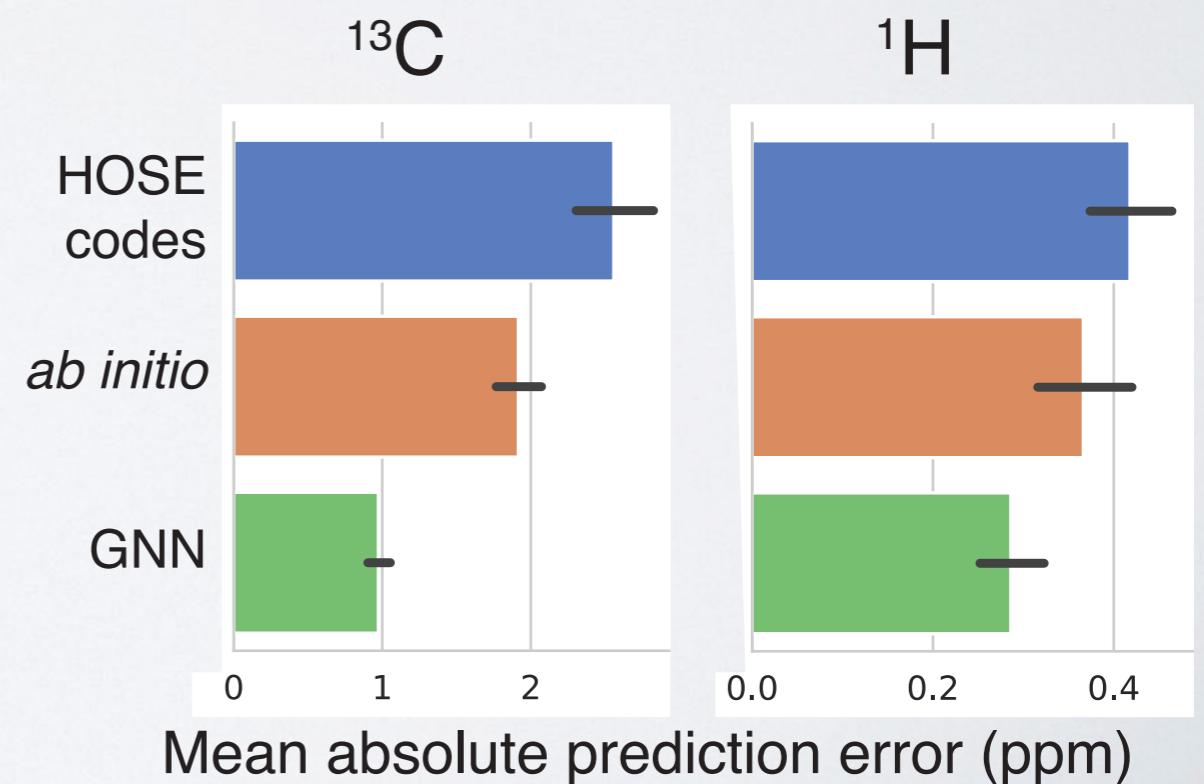
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# FAST AND ACCURATE

Ongoing work

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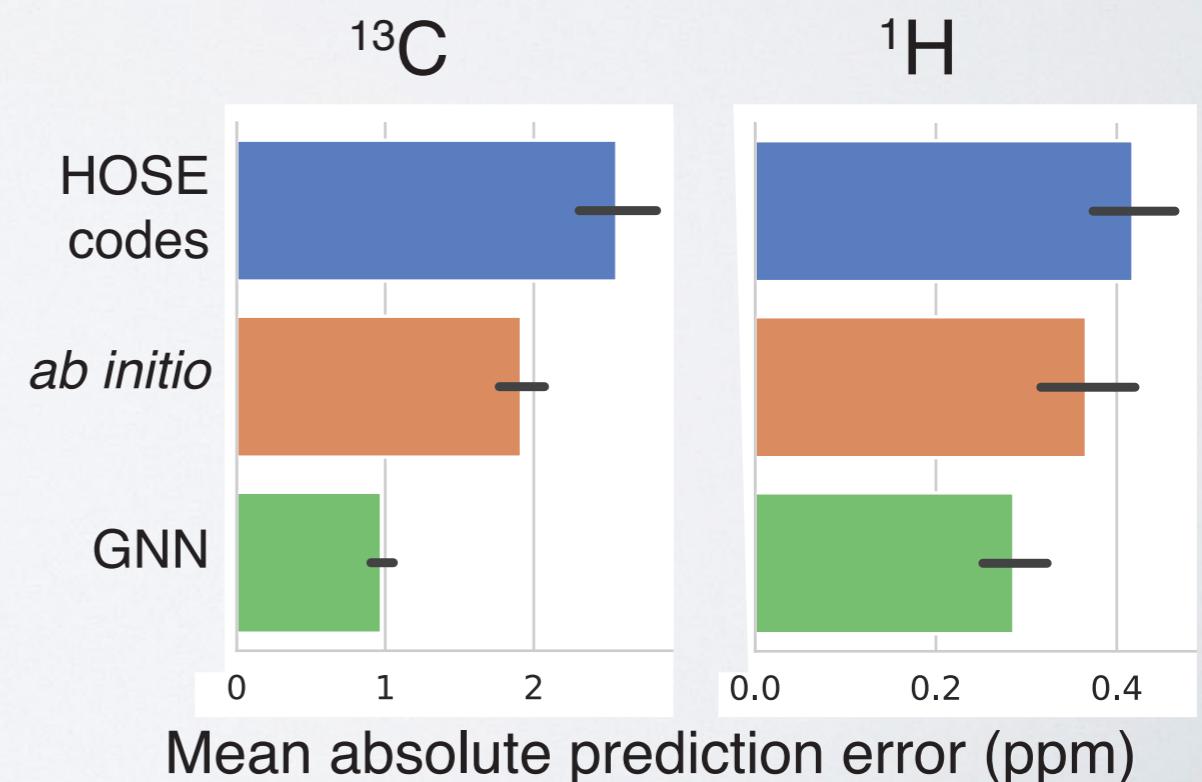


# FAST AND ACCURATE

## Ongoing work

- Incorporating richer molecular structure / space

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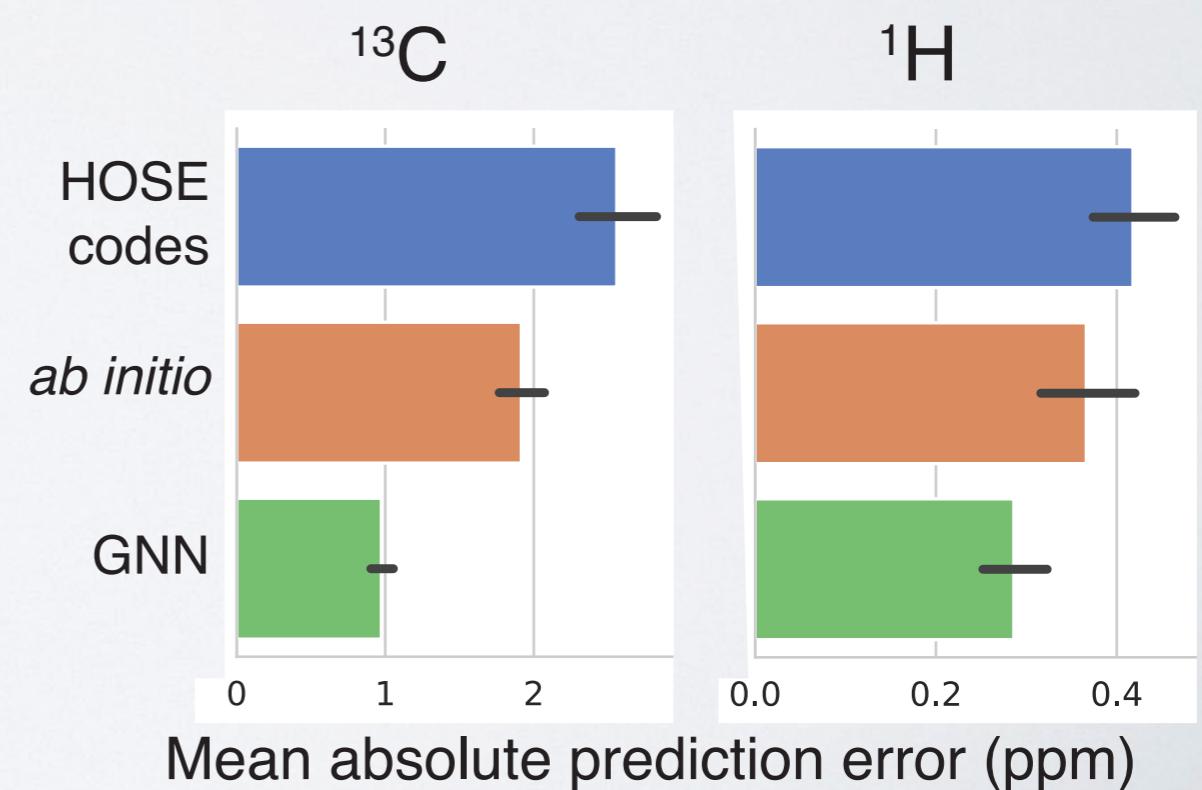


# FAST AND ACCURATE

## Ongoing work

- Incorporating richer molecular structure / space
- Predict scalar coupling constants as well (very useful)

| Method            | note            | per-mol | per-nucleus |
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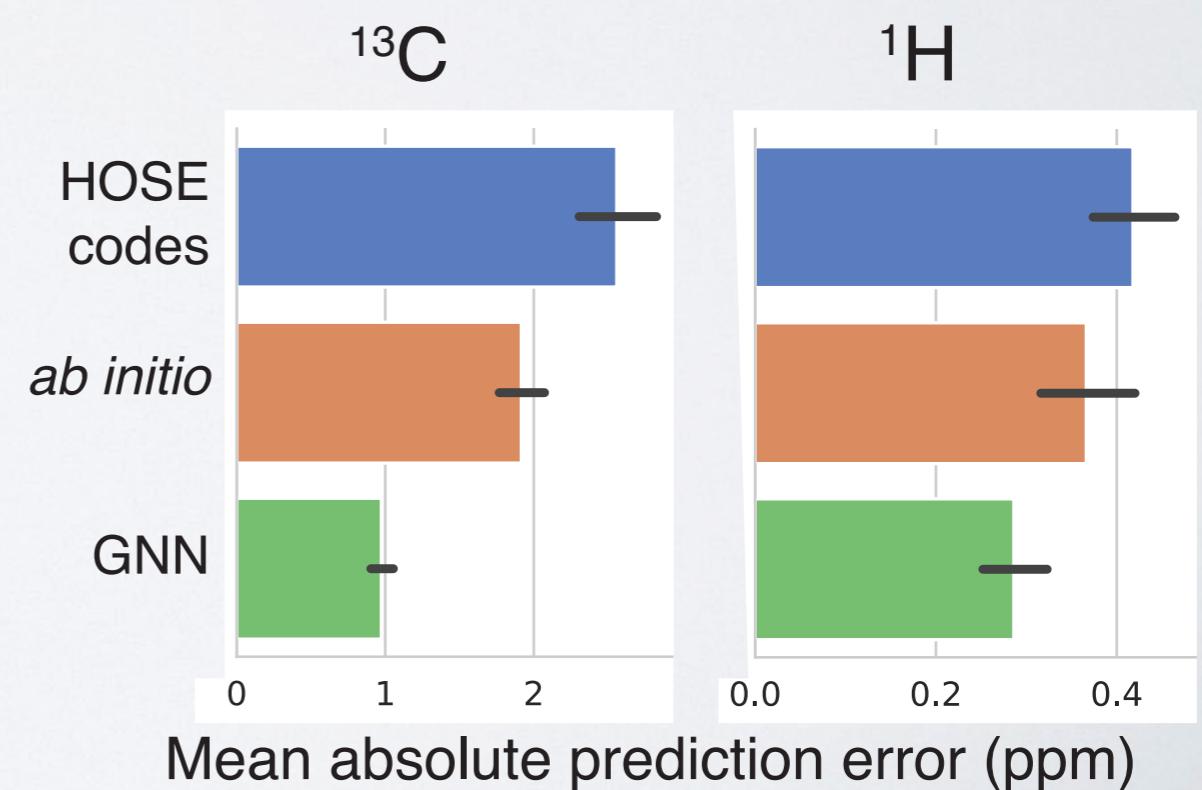


# FAST AND ACCURATE

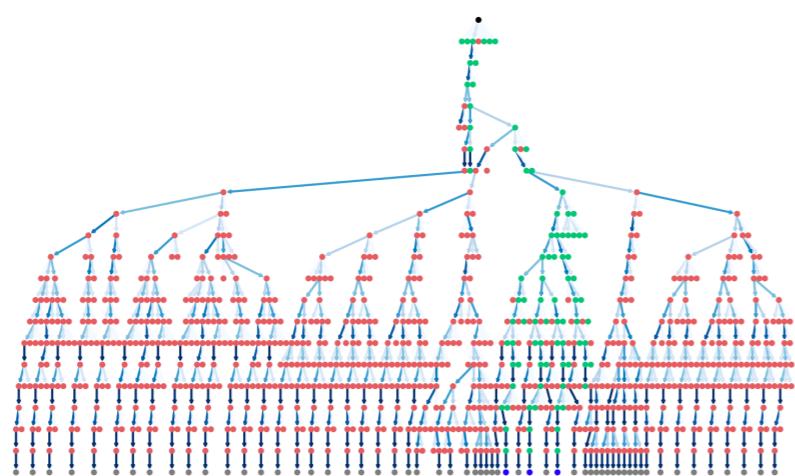
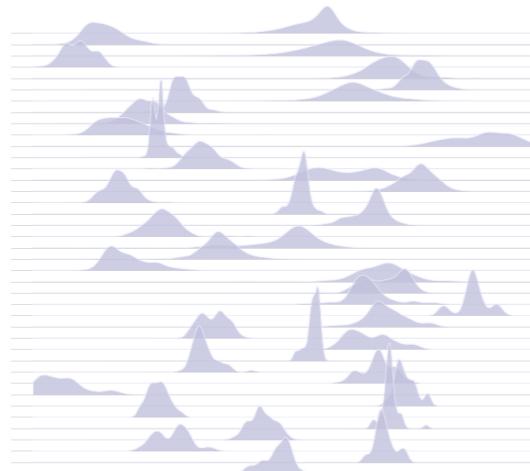
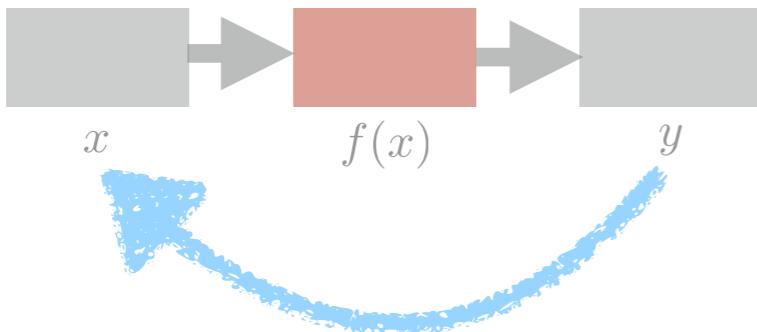
## Ongoing work

- Incorporating richer molecular structure / space
- Predict scalar coupling constants as well (very useful)
- Active learning with ab initio data

| Method            | note            | per-mol | per-nucleus |
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# TODAY

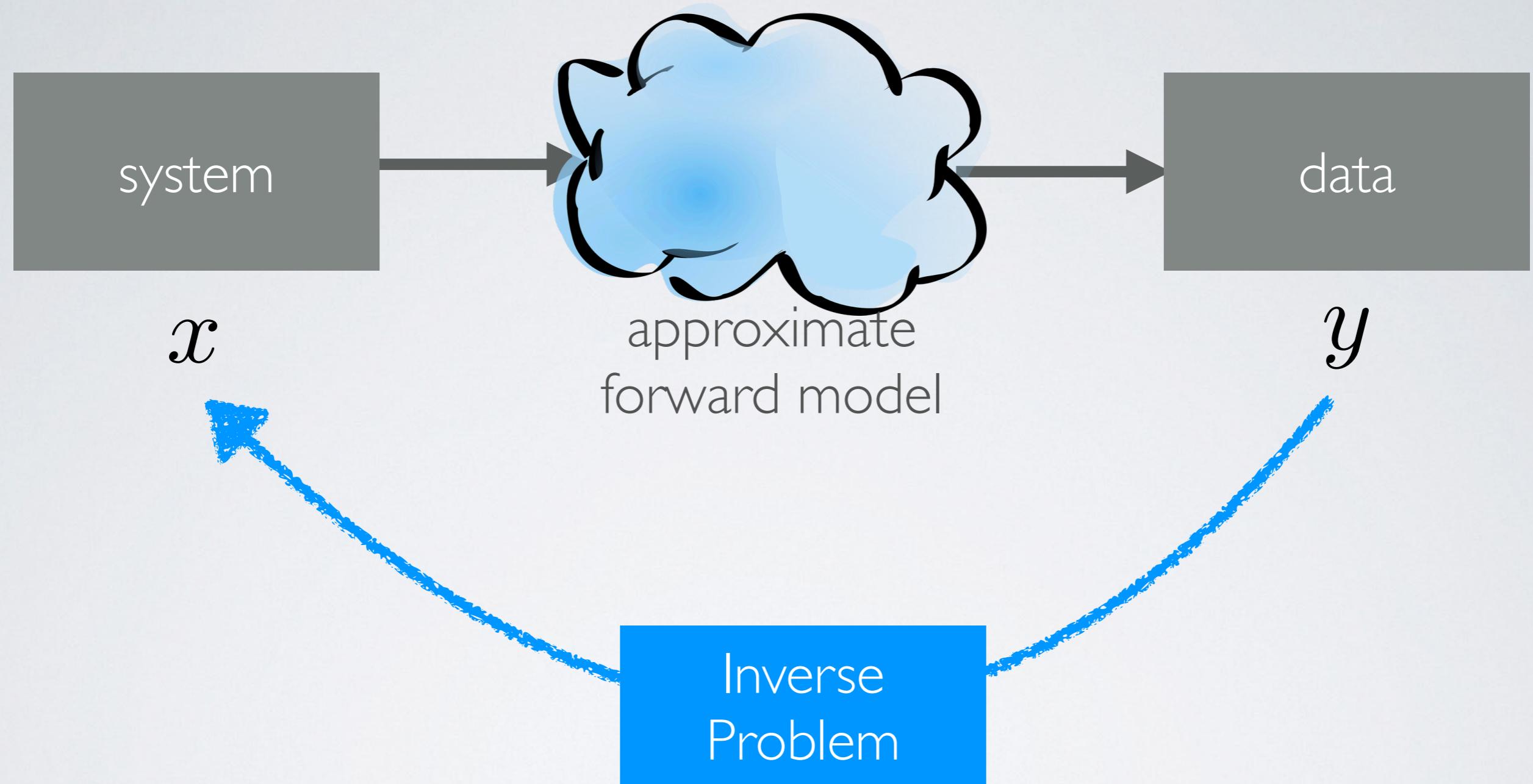


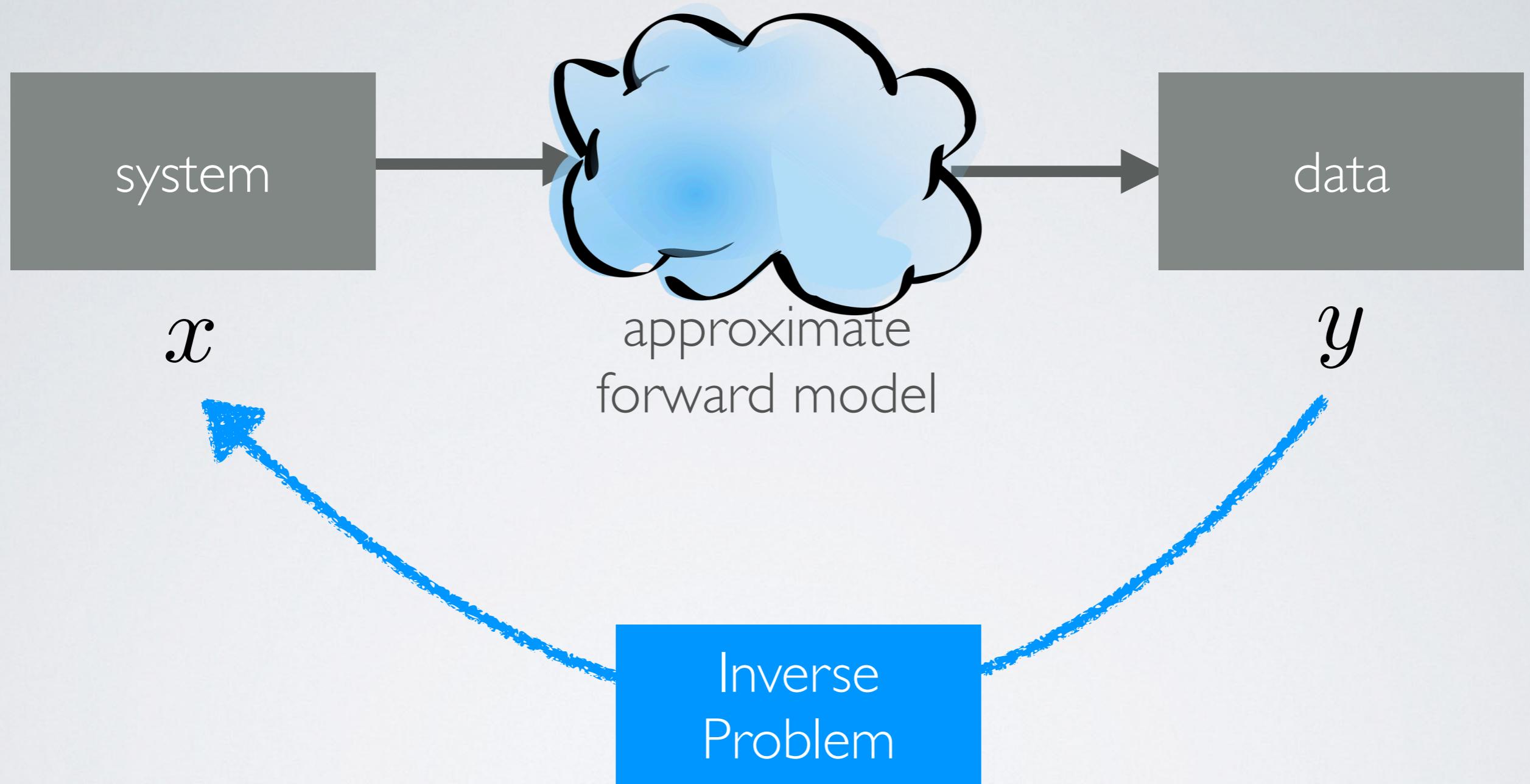
What are  
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Spectroscopy:  
The forward problem

Spectroscopy:  
The inverse problem



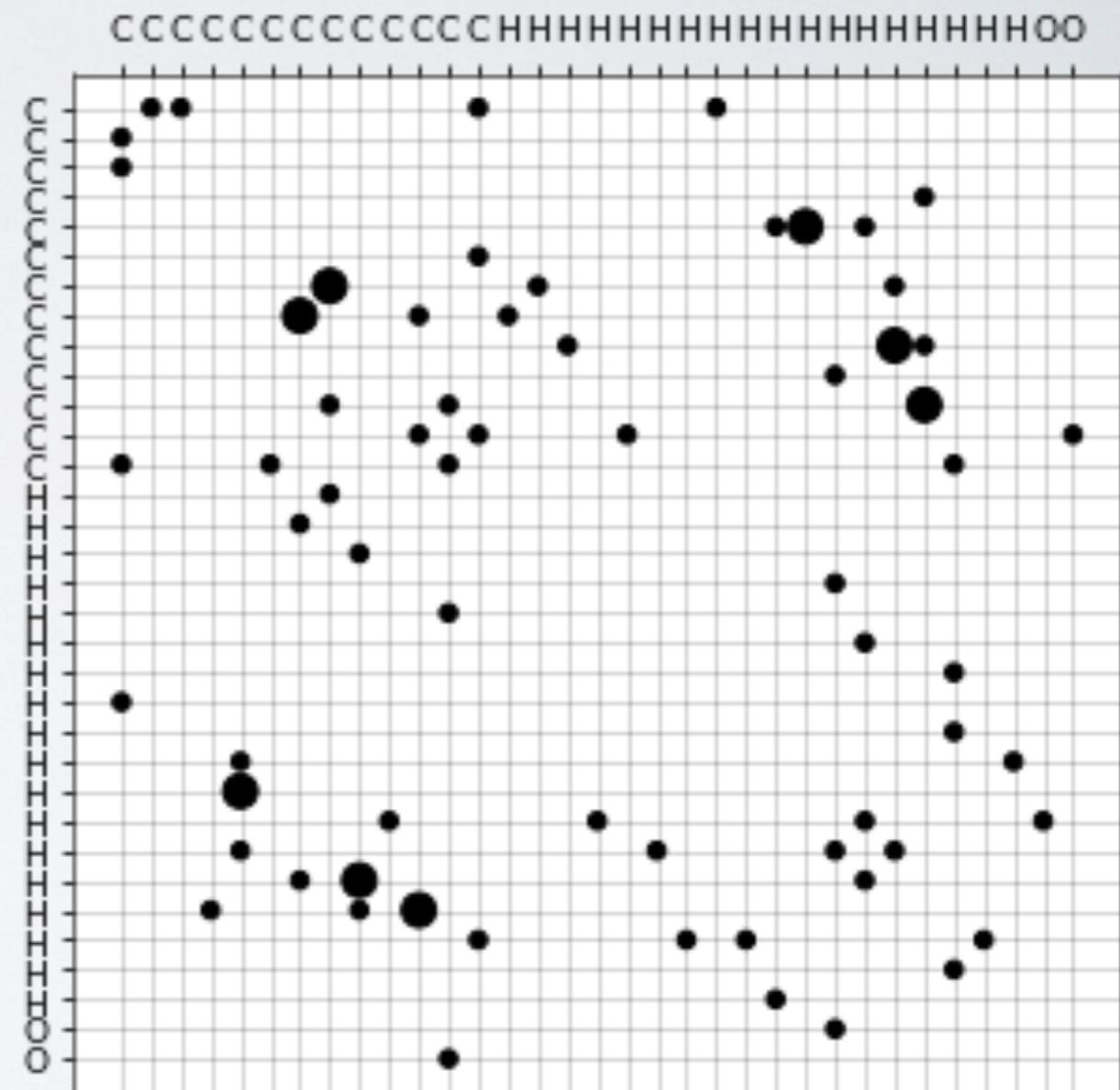
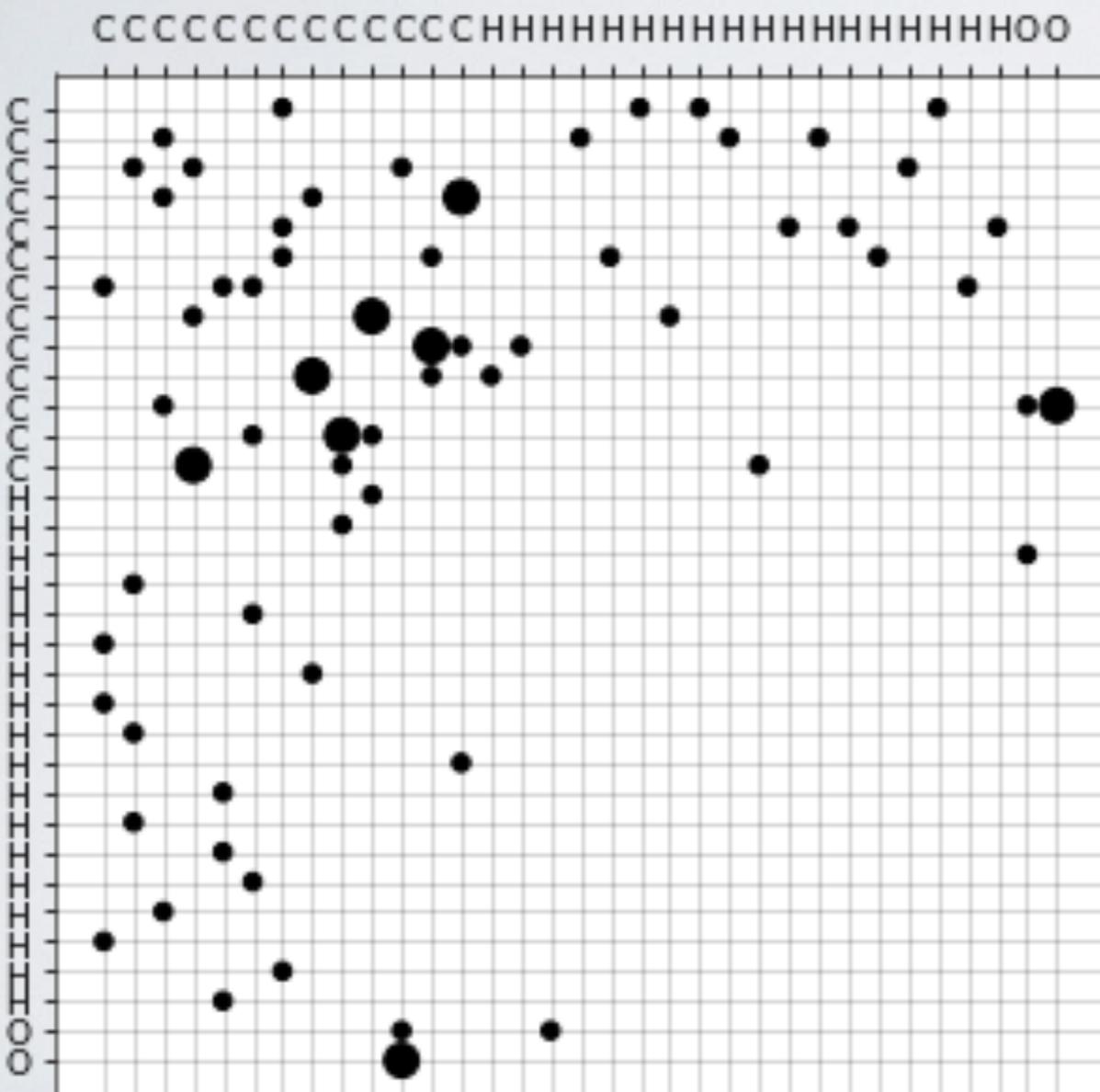




Jonas, **Deep Imitation Learning  
for Molecular Inverse Problems** (NeurIPS 2019)

# LET'S TALK ISOMORPHISM

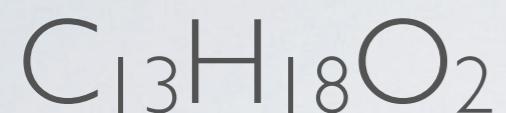
Are these two graphs the same?



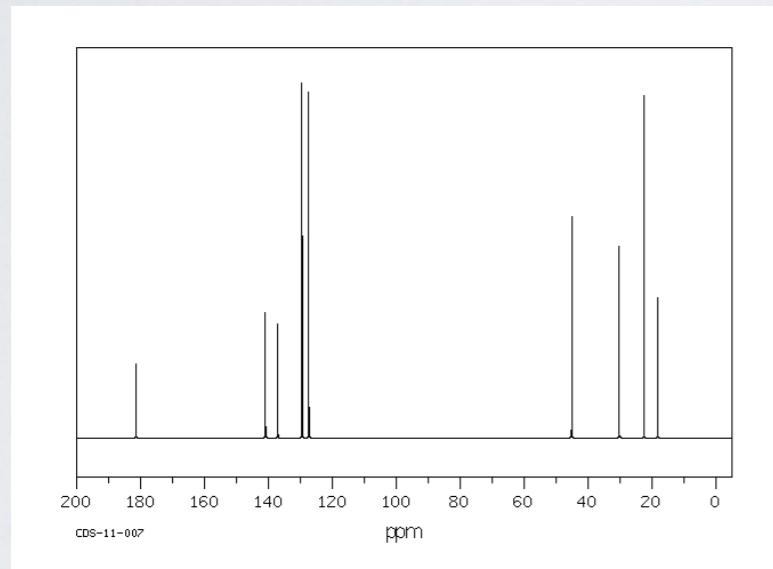
# PROBLEM FORMULATION

# PROBLEM FORMULATION

Molecular formula



Spectrum

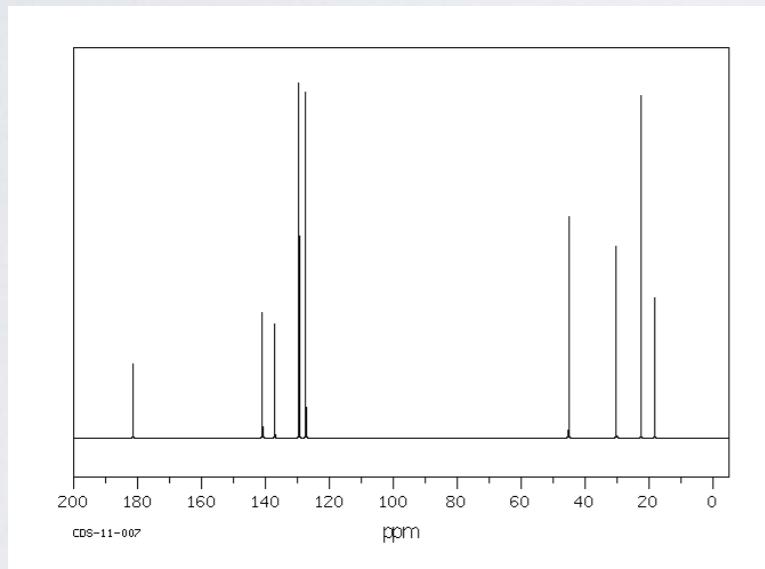


# PROBLEM FORMULATION

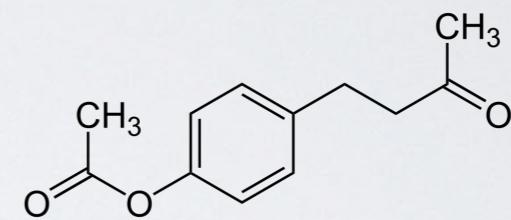
Molecular formula

C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Spectrum



Structure

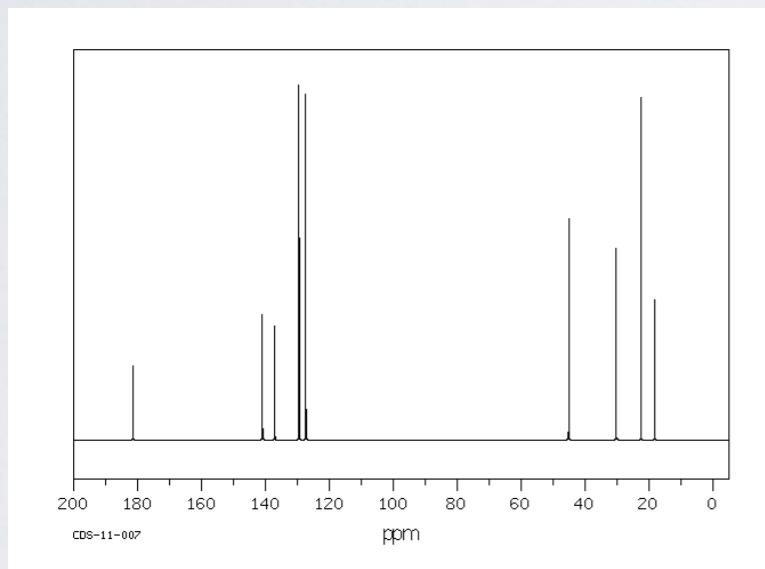


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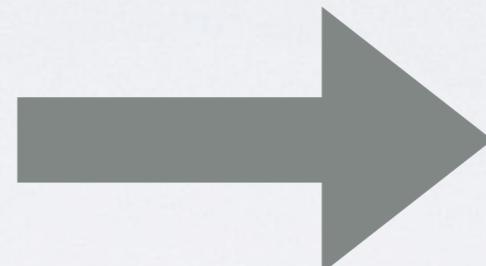
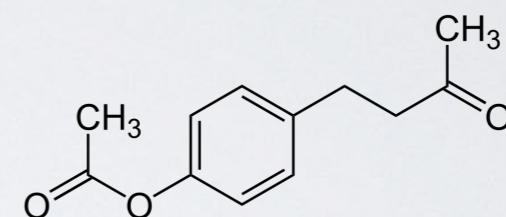
Molecular formula

$C_{13}H_{18}O_2$

Spectrum



Structure



vertices

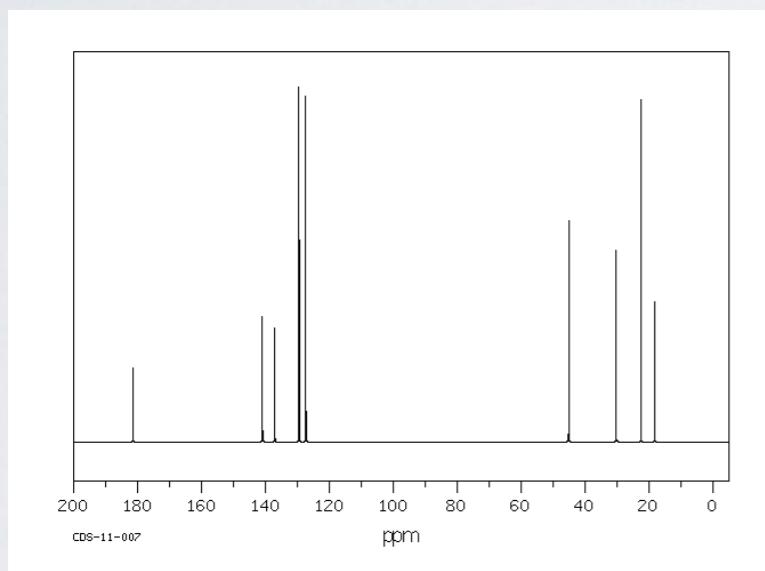
per-vertex  
properties

# PROBLEM FORMULATION

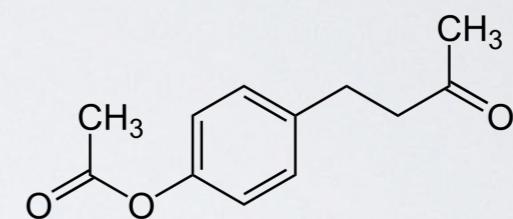
Molecular formula

$C_{13}H_{18}O_2$

Spectrum

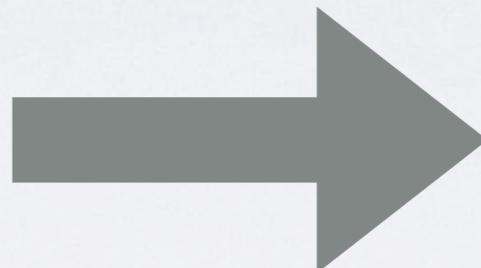


Structure



vertices

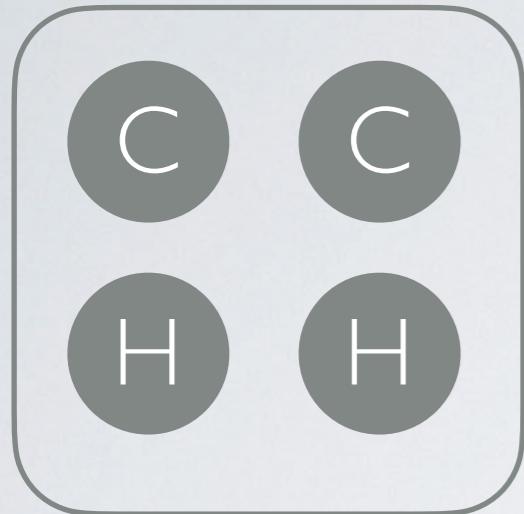
per-vertex  
properties



edges

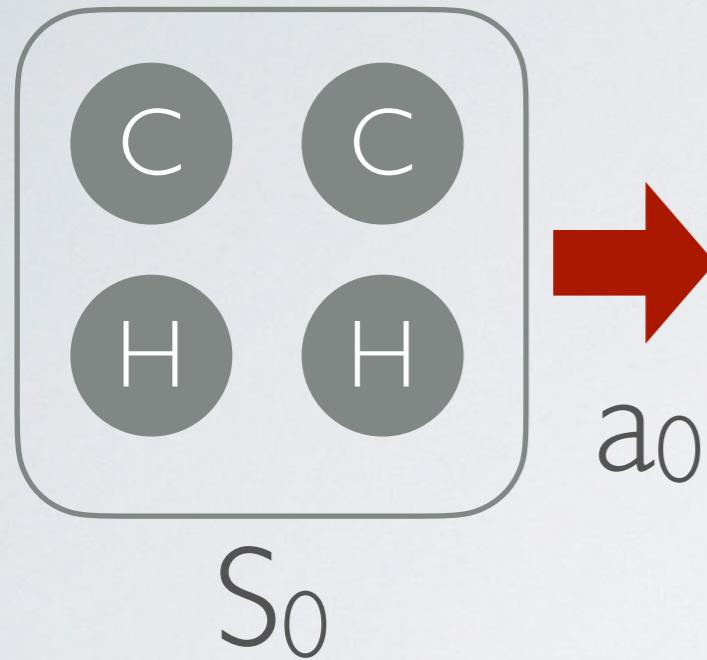
# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION

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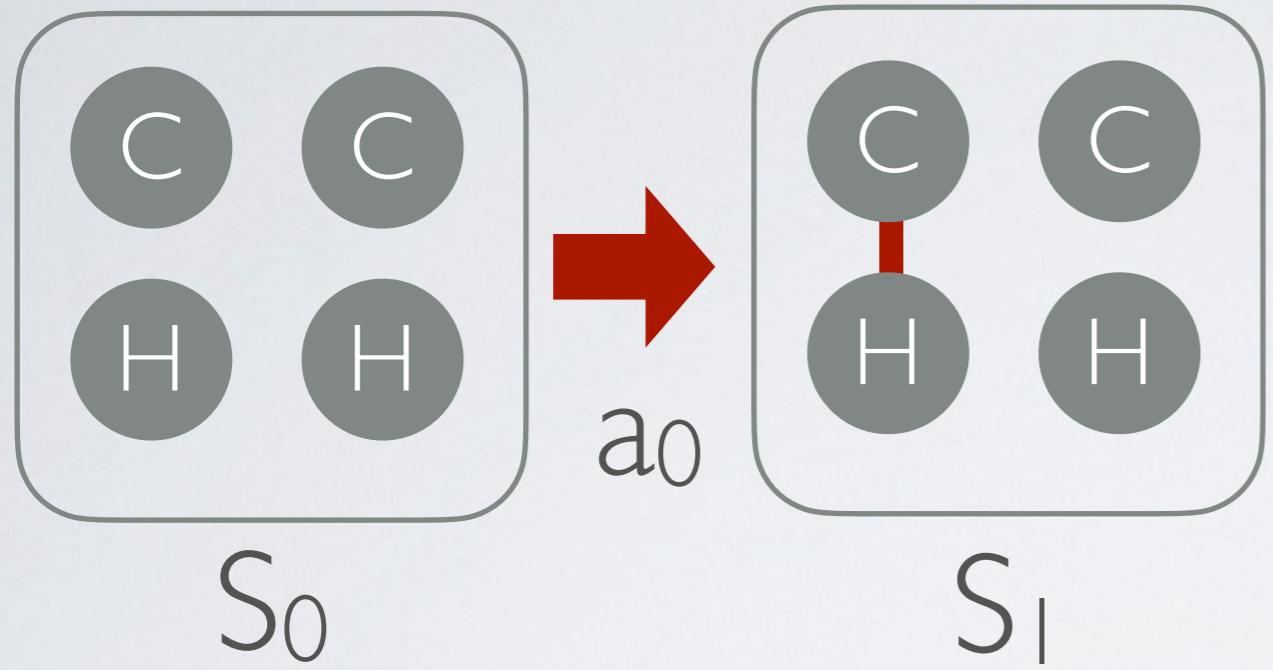


$S_0$

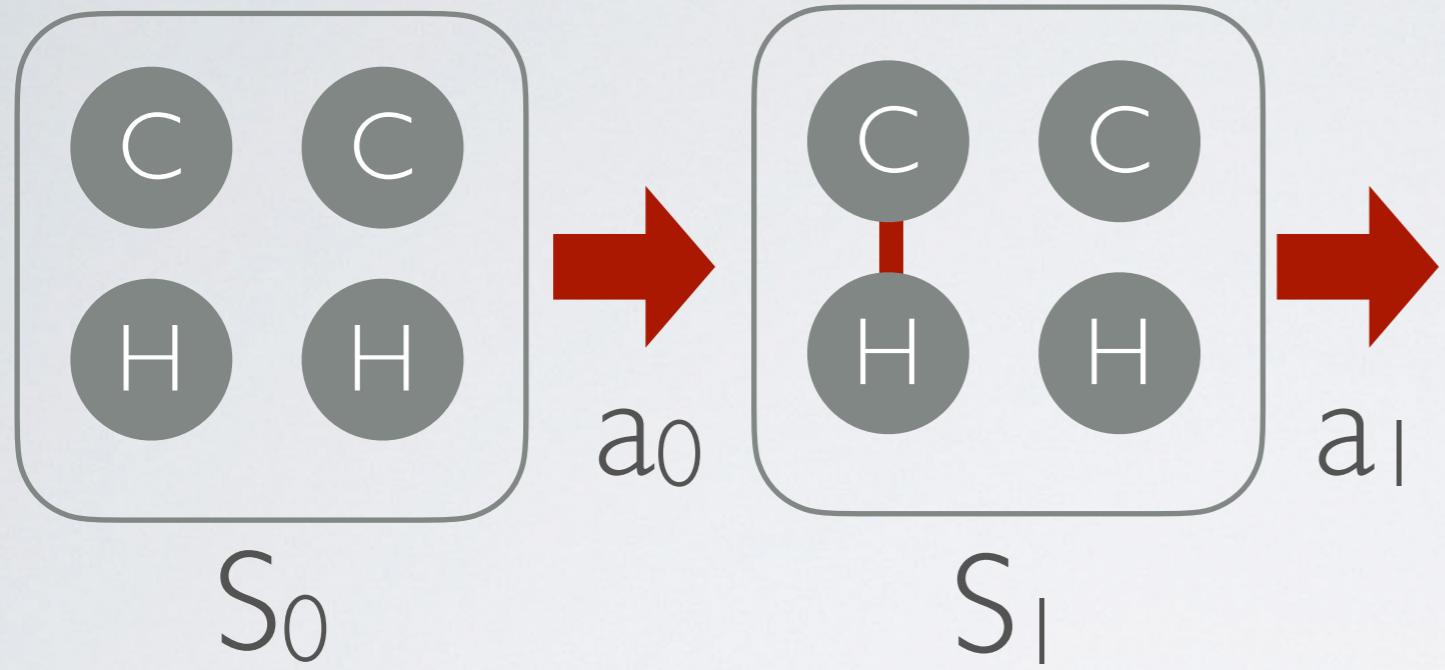
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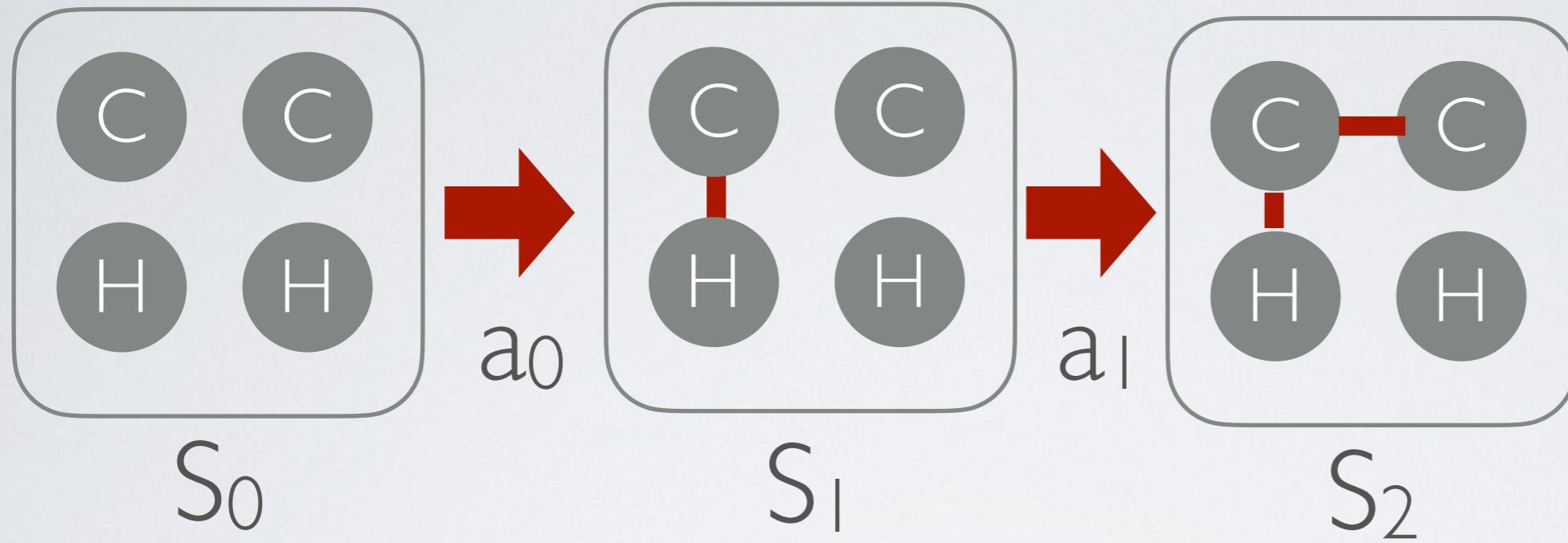
# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION



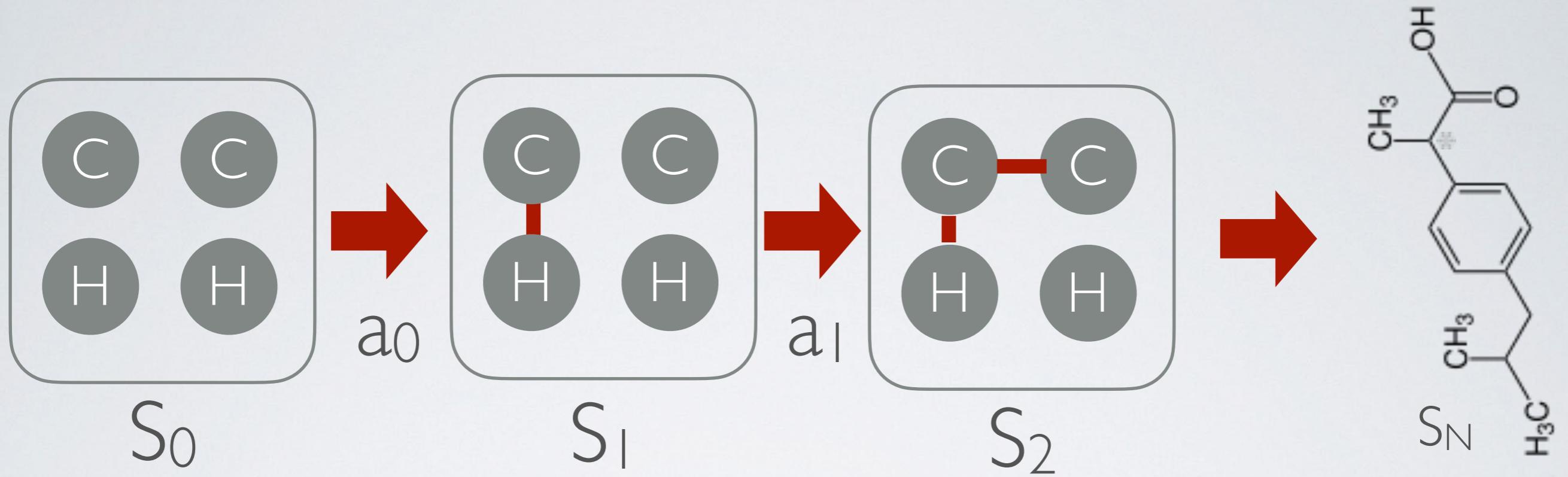
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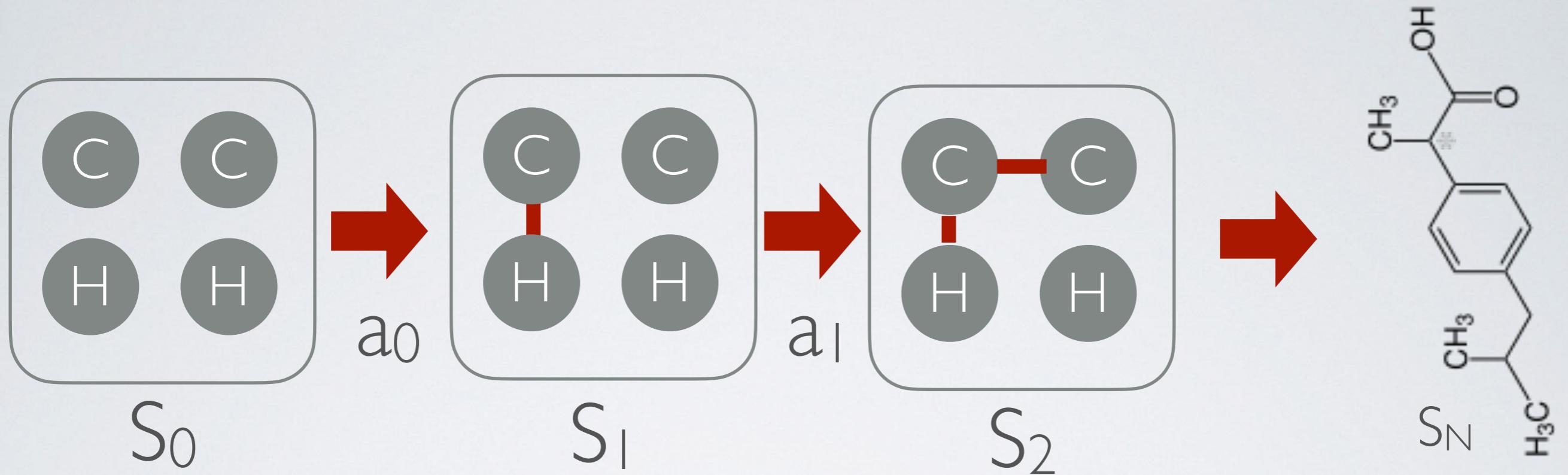
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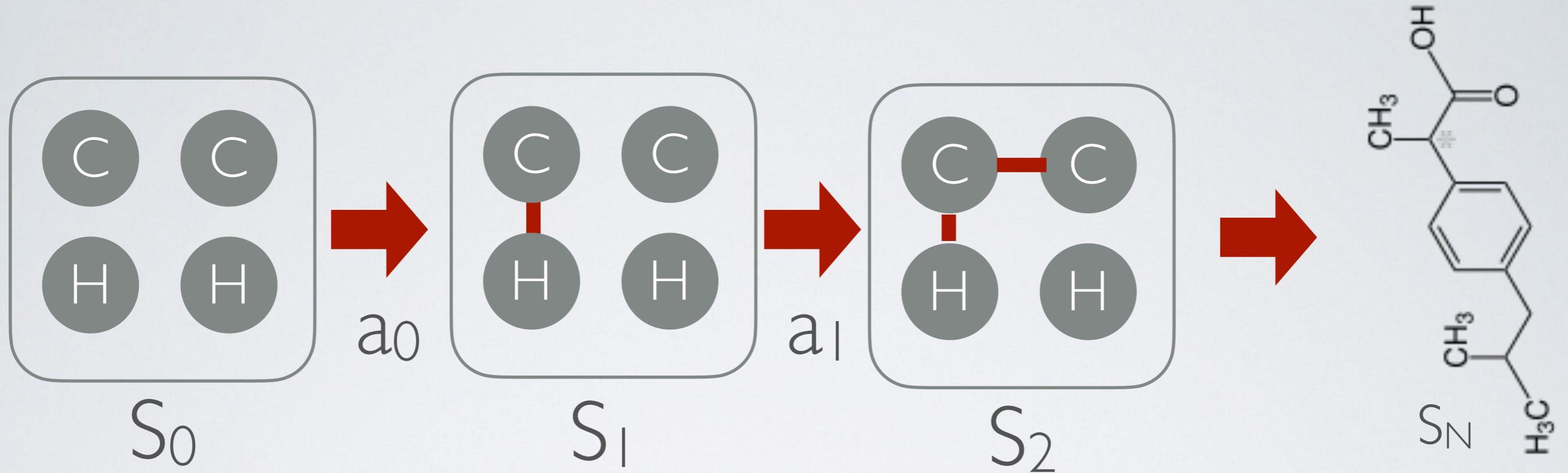


# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION



$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$

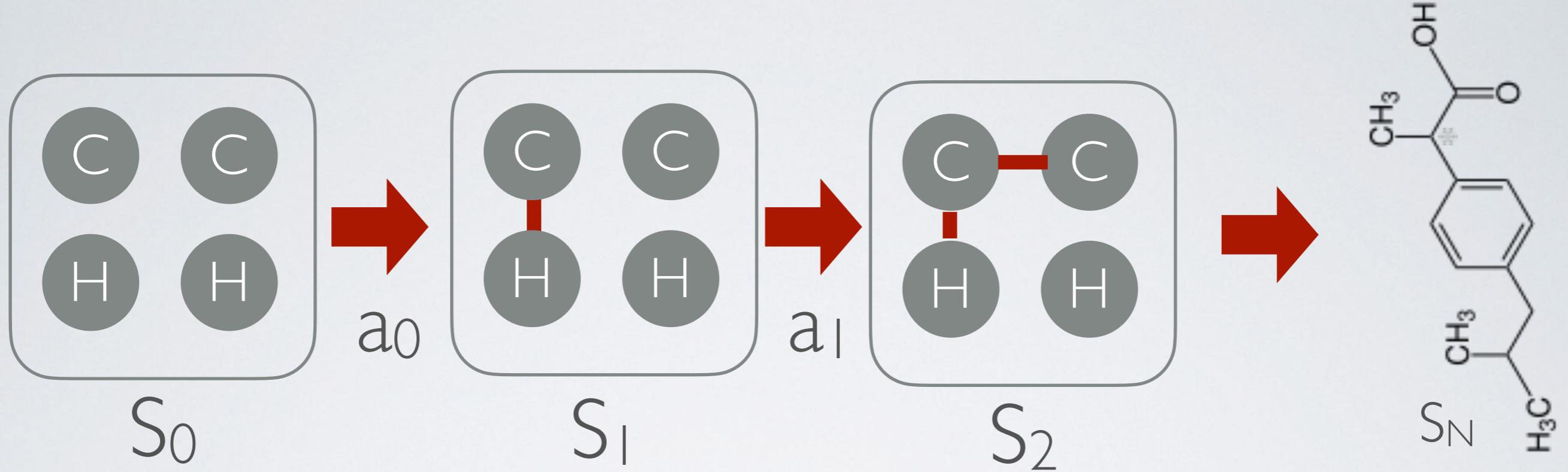
# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION



$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

Fine, this is a MDP.  
Is it easy or hard?

# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION

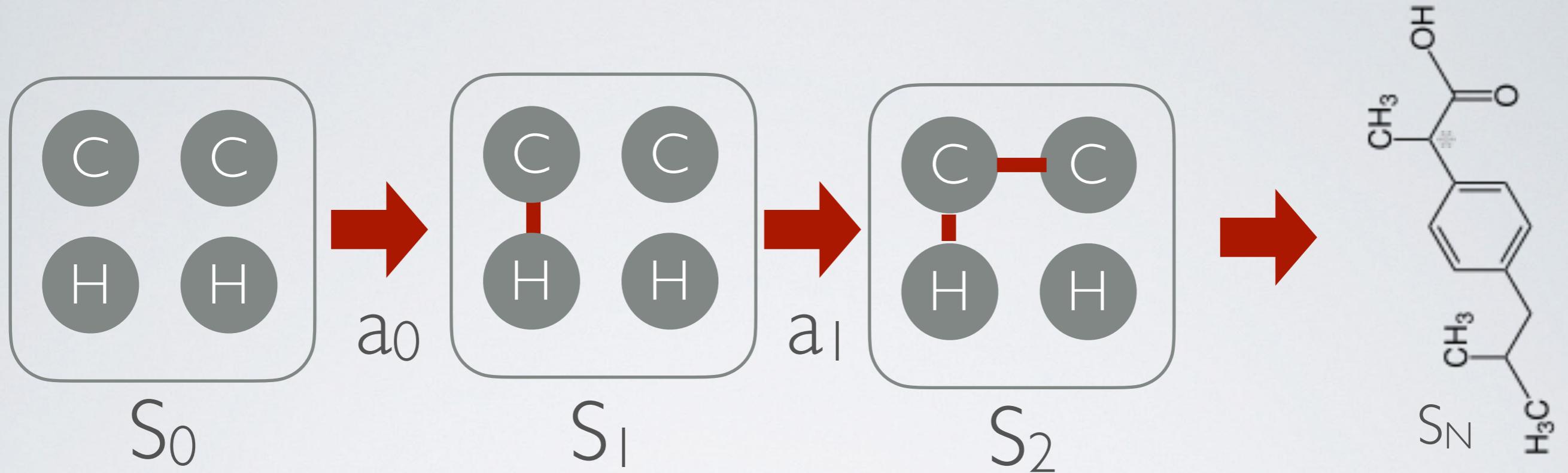


$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

Fine, this is a MDP.  
Is it easy or hard?

- Easy: fully-observed

# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION

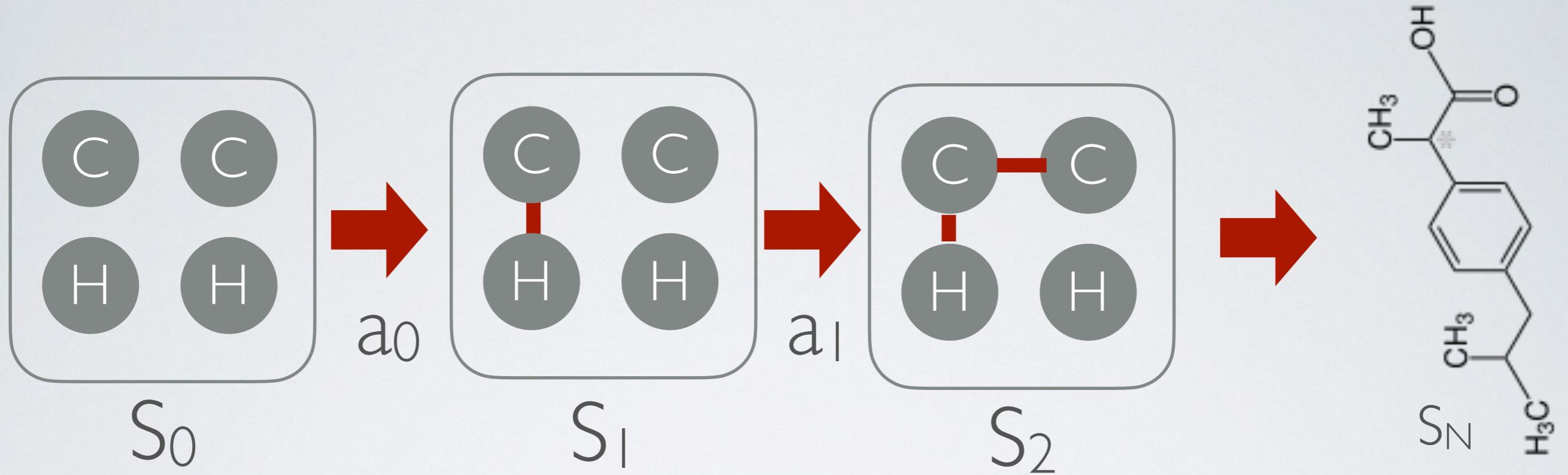


$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

Fine, this is a MDP.  
Is it easy or hard?

- Easy: fully-observed
- Easy: Deterministic actions

# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION

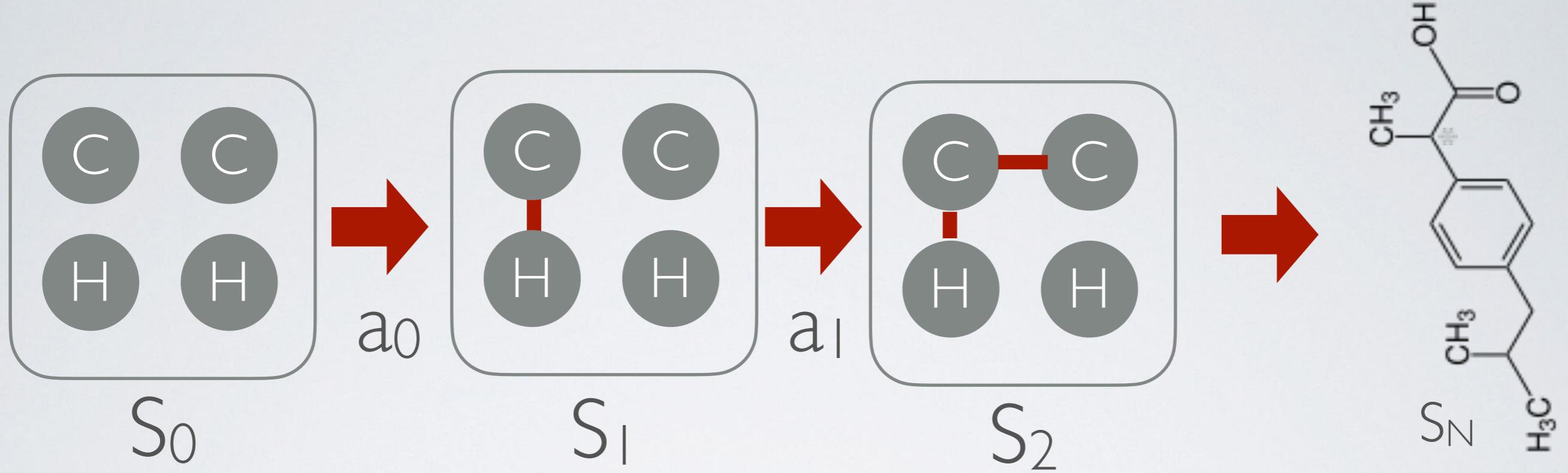


$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

Fine, this is a MDP.  
Is it easy or hard?

- Easy: fully-observed
- Easy: Deterministic actions
- Hard: delayed reward

# SEQUENTIAL BOND FORMATION



$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

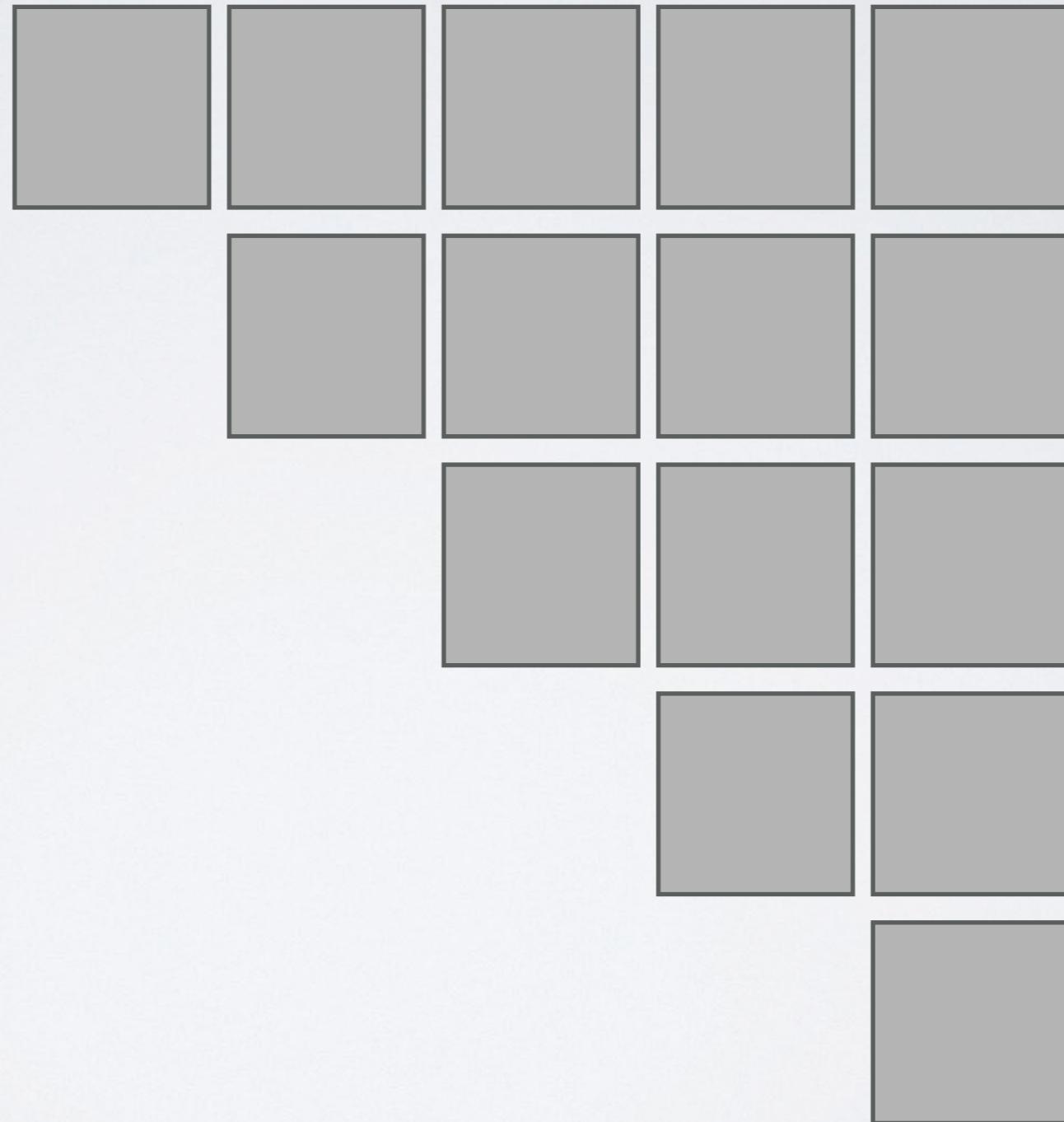
Fine, this is a MDP.  
Is it easy or hard?

Treat as an imitation  
learning problem

- Easy: fully-observed
- Easy: Deterministic actions
- Hard: delayed reward

# WHAT IS THE RIGHT NEXT ACTION?

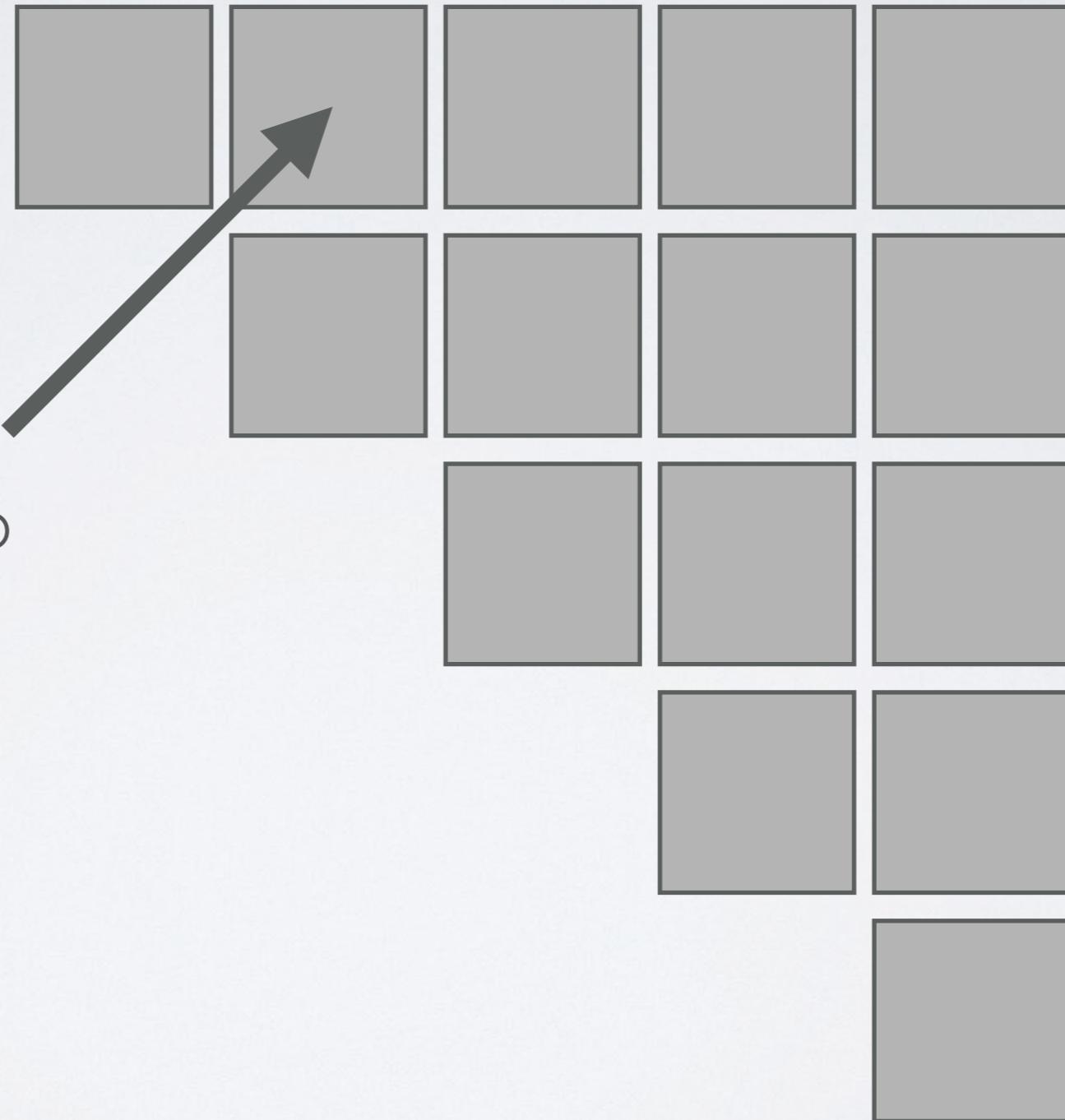
At training time, we have an **oracle** which tells us all valid next edges



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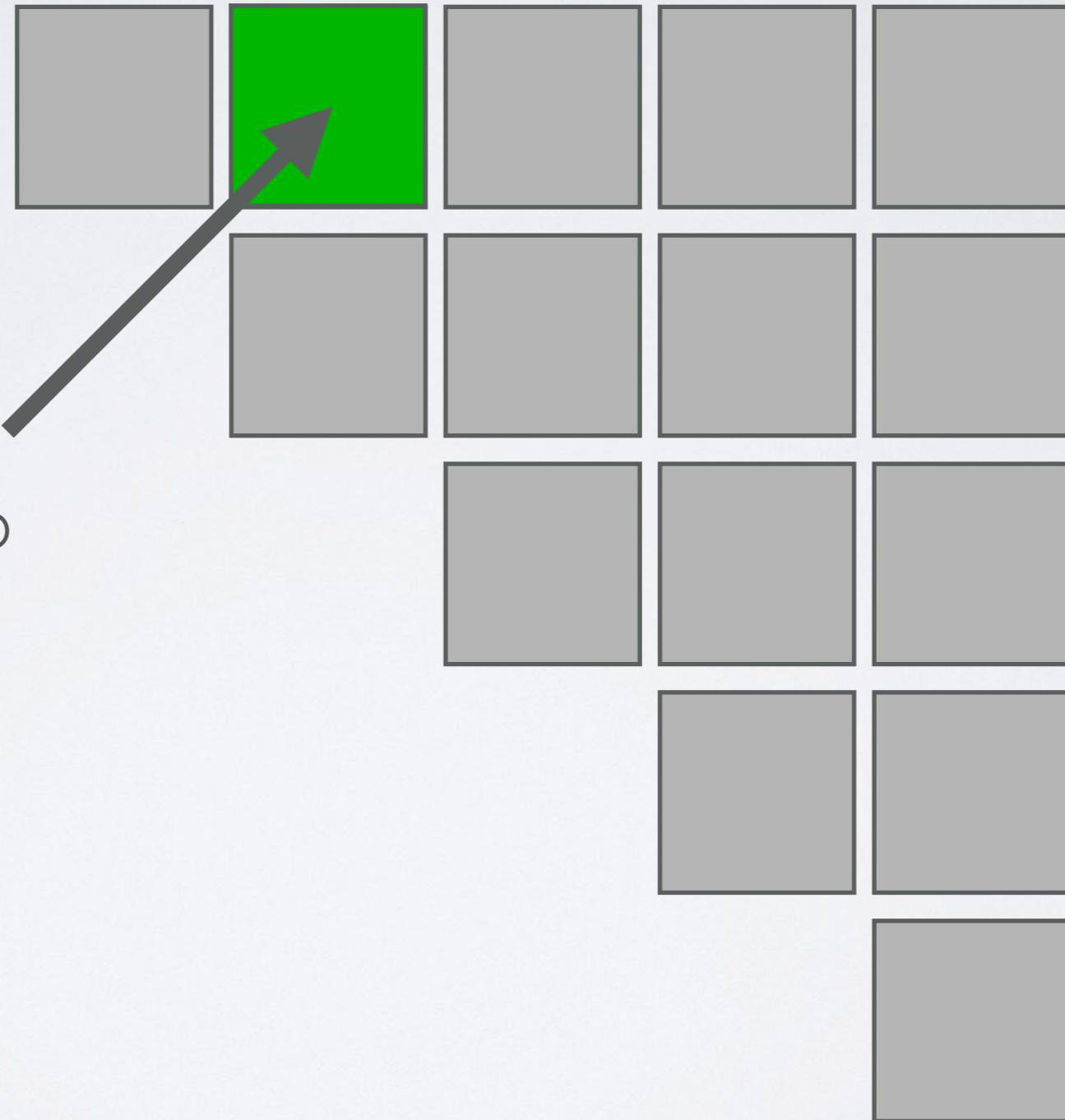
If we add this edge, is the resulting graph subisomorphic to the truth? **YES**



# WHAT IS THE RIGHT NEXT ACTION?

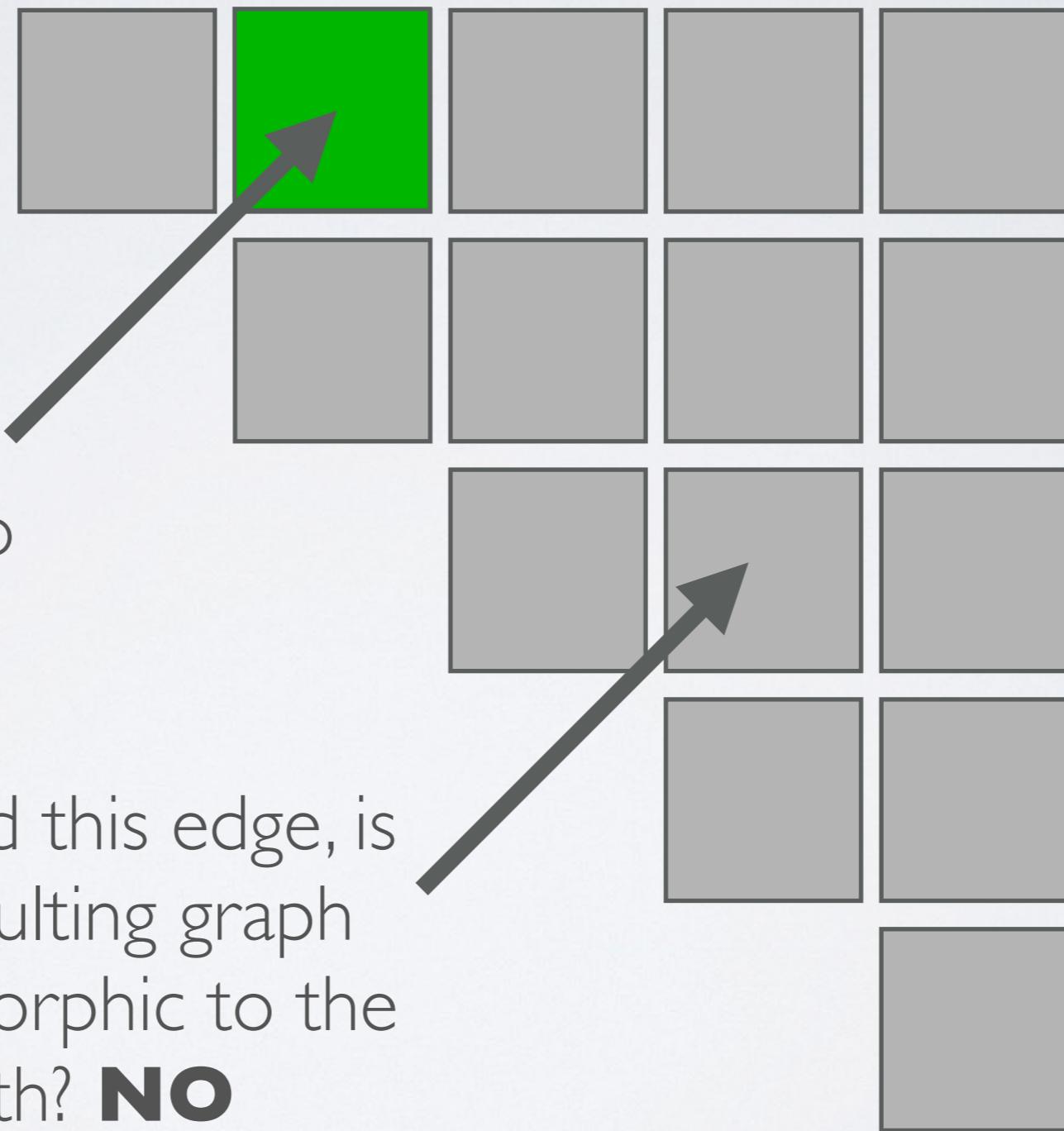
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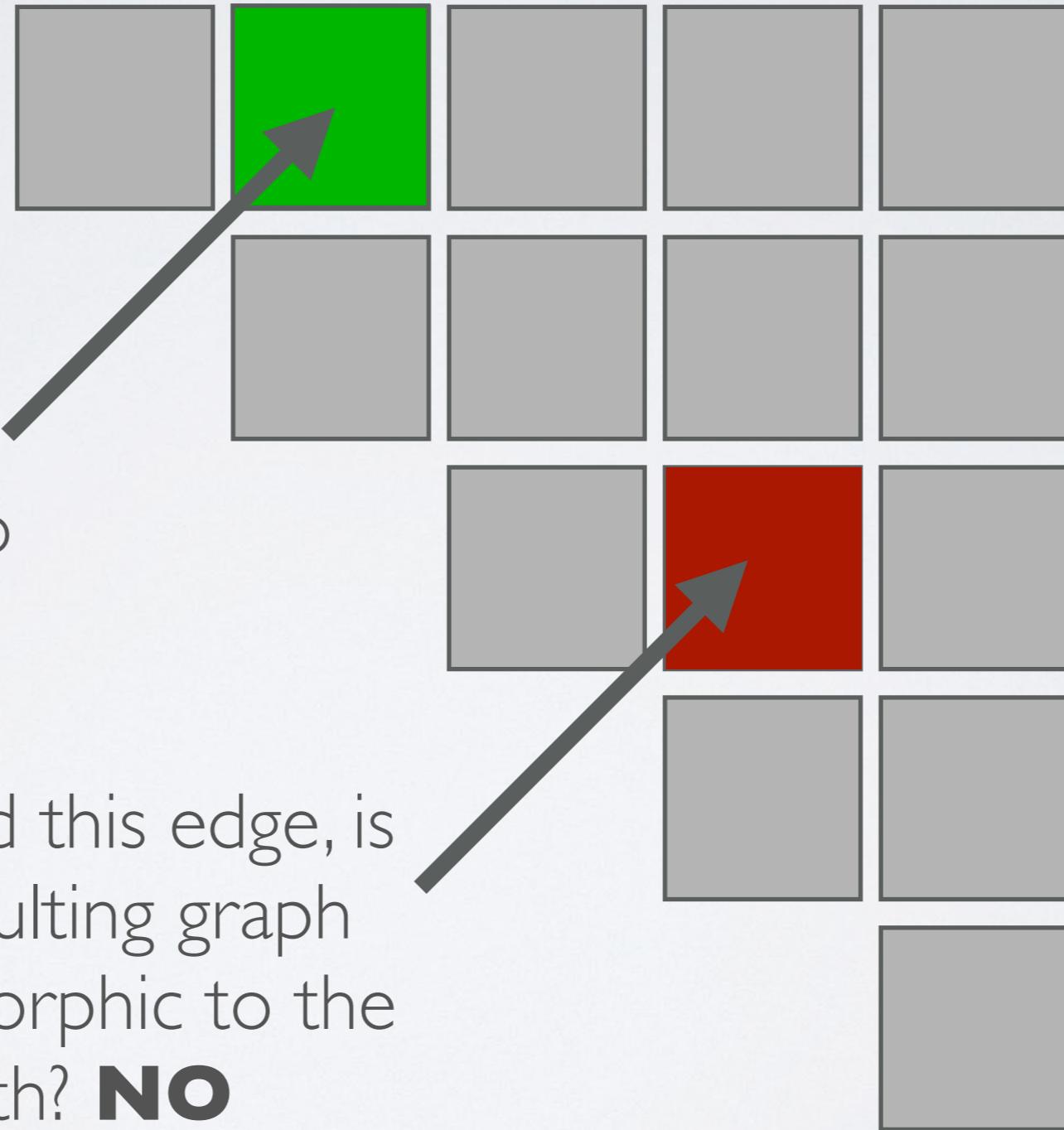
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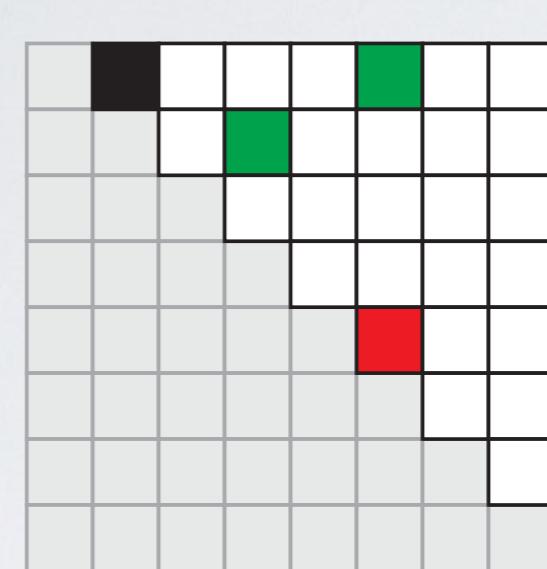
If we add this edge, is the resulting graph subisomorphic to the truth? **YES**



If we add this edge, is the resulting graph subisomorphic to the truth? **NO**

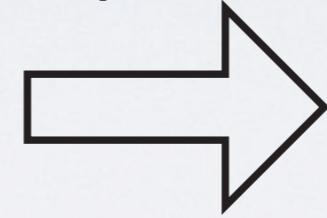
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At training time, we have an **oracle** which tells us all valid next edges

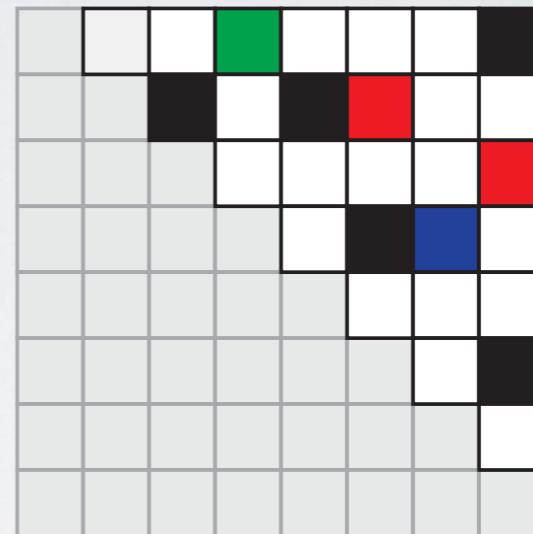


Current Edge State

exact  
subisomorphism  
computation



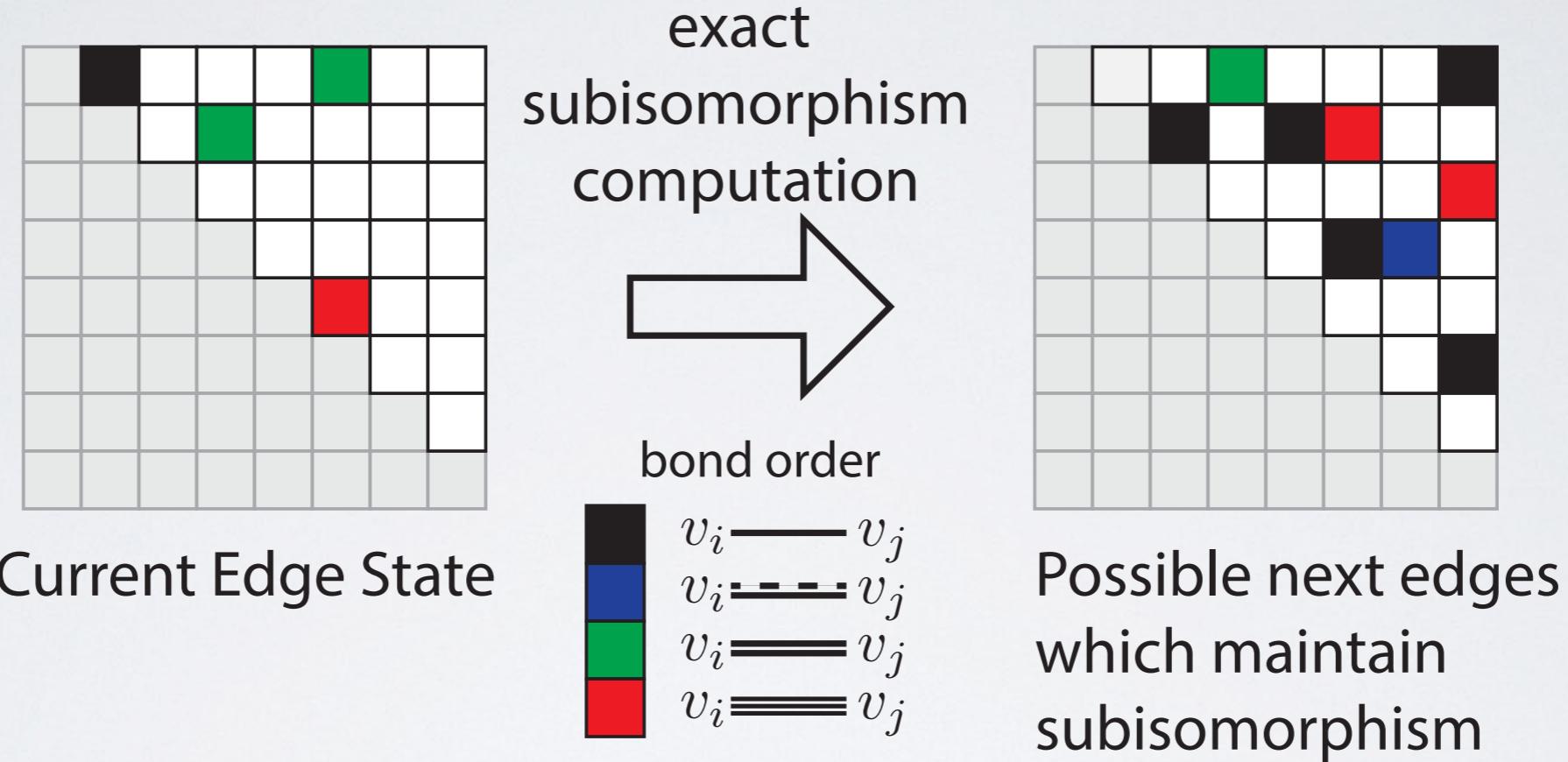
bond order



Possible next edges  
which maintain  
subisomorphism

# WHAT IS THE RIGHT NEXT ACTION?

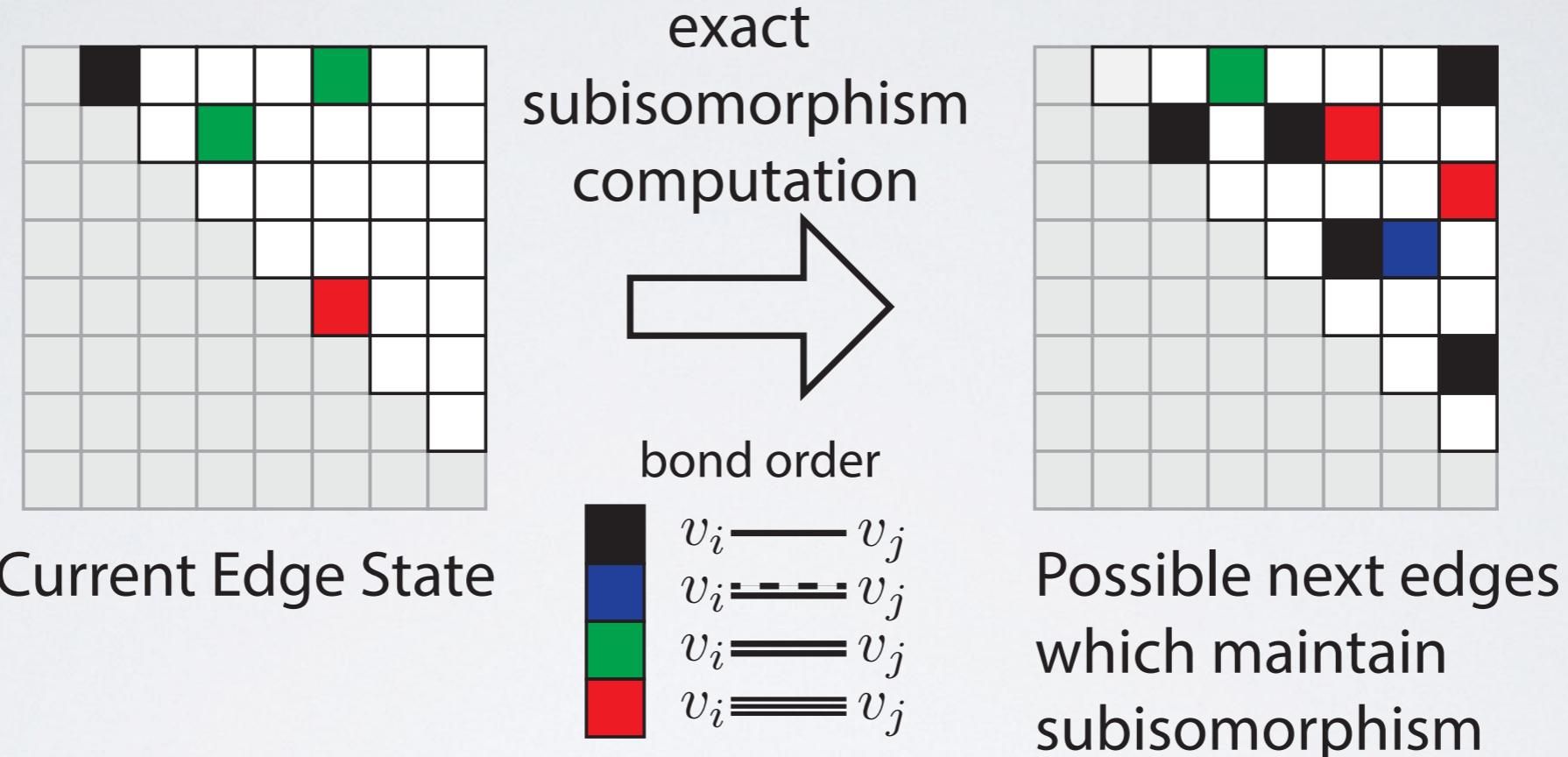
At training time, we have an **oracle** which tells us all valid next edges



$$\min_{\theta} ||A_{\text{subiso}} - p_{\theta}(A | S_t, \text{spectrum})||$$

# WHAT IS THE RIGHT NEXT ACTION?

At training time, we have an **oracle** which tells us all valid next edges



$$\min_{\theta} ||A_{\text{subiso}} - p_{\theta}(A|S_t, \text{spectrum})||$$

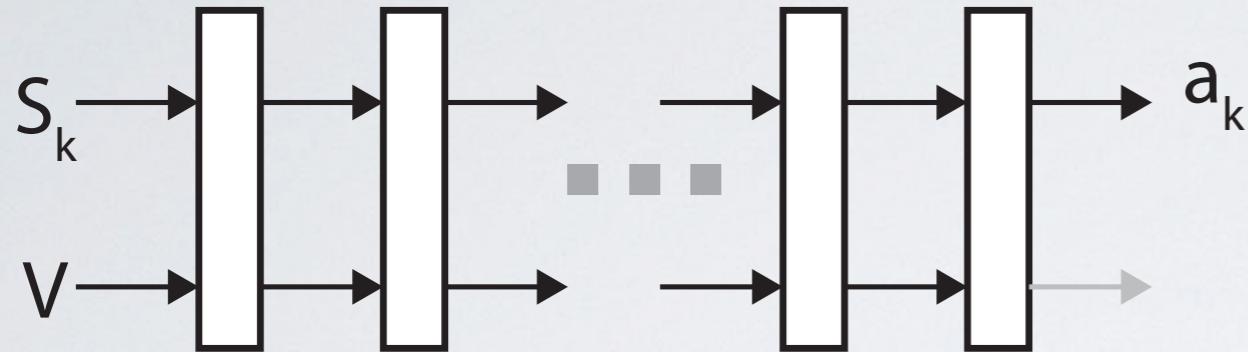
We can thus directly minimize policy over valid actions  
— imitation learning



$$p(a_k \mid S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

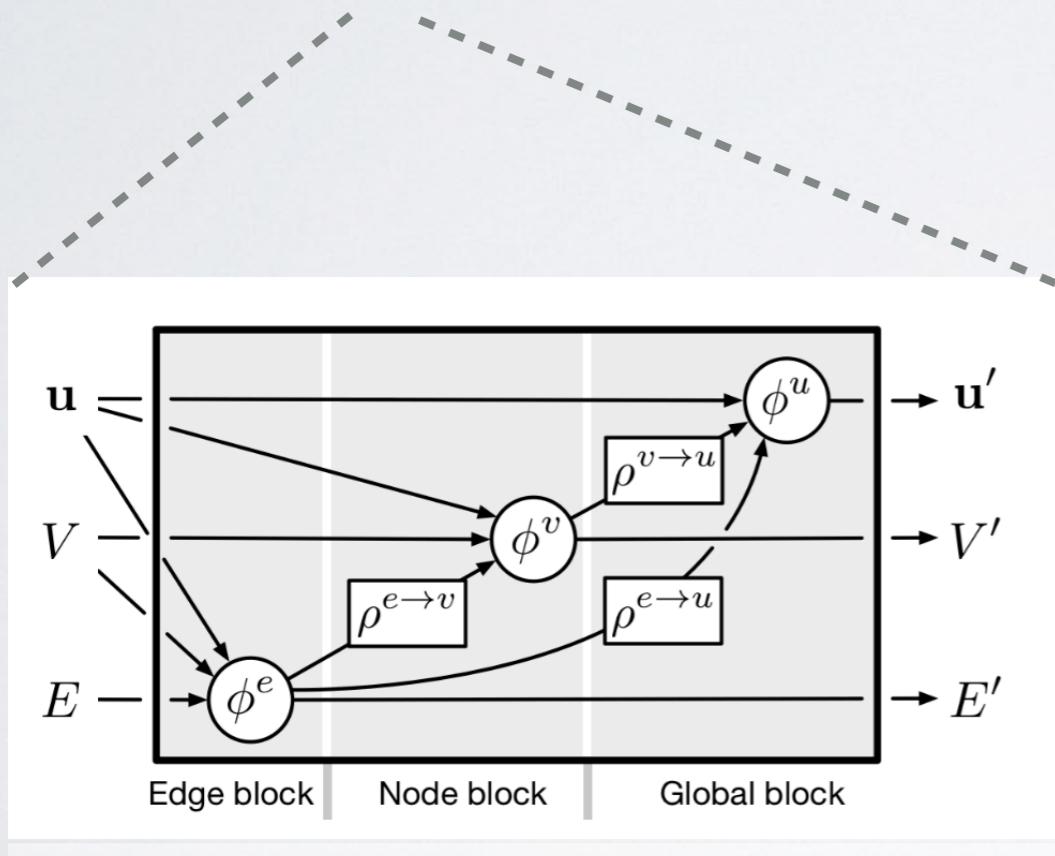
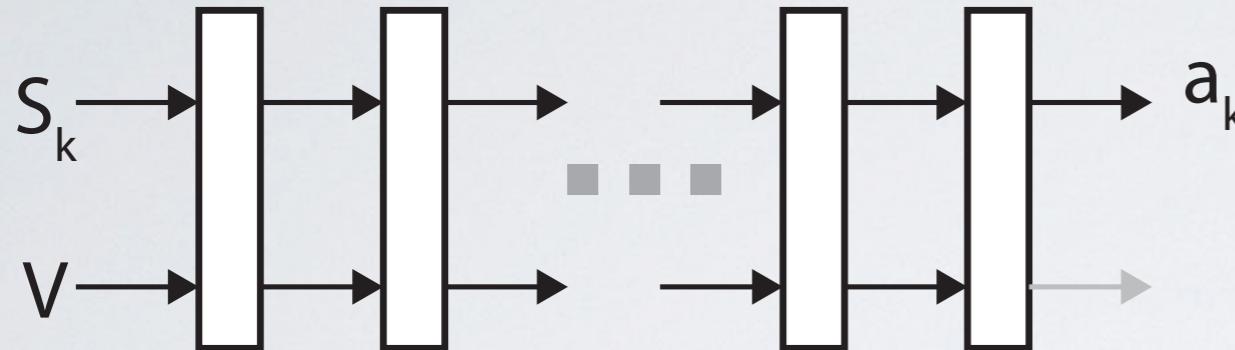
$$p(a_k \mid S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

## Relational network



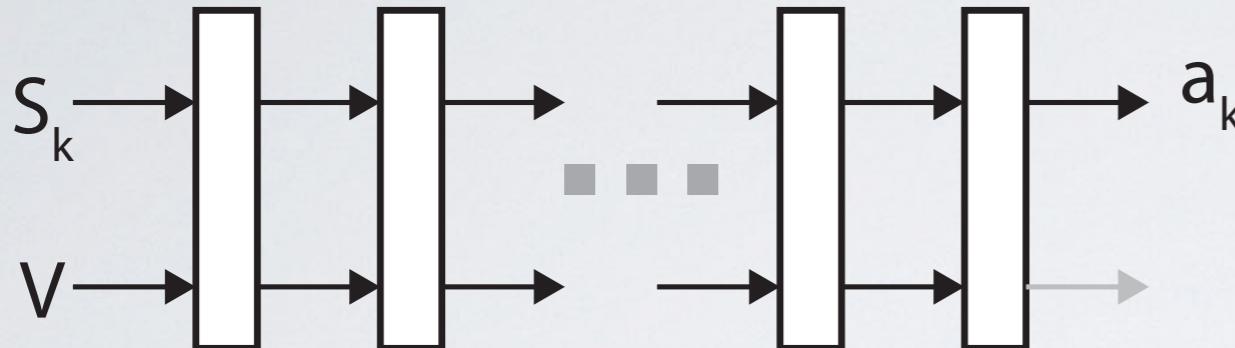
$$p(a_k \mid S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

## Relational network



$$p(a_k \mid S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

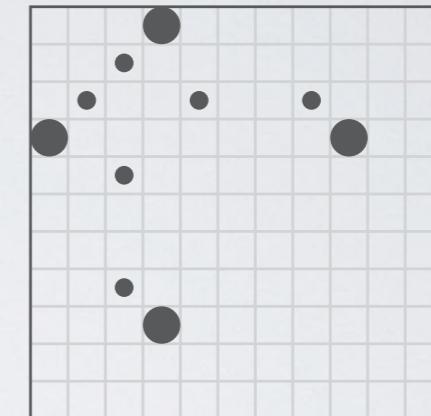
## Relational network



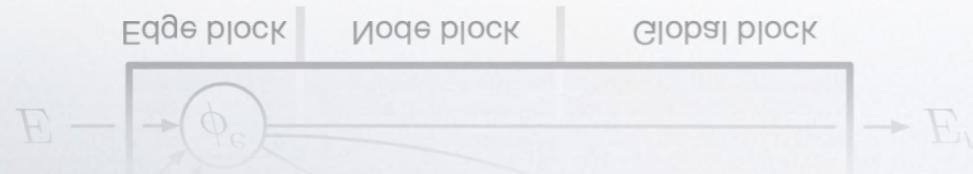
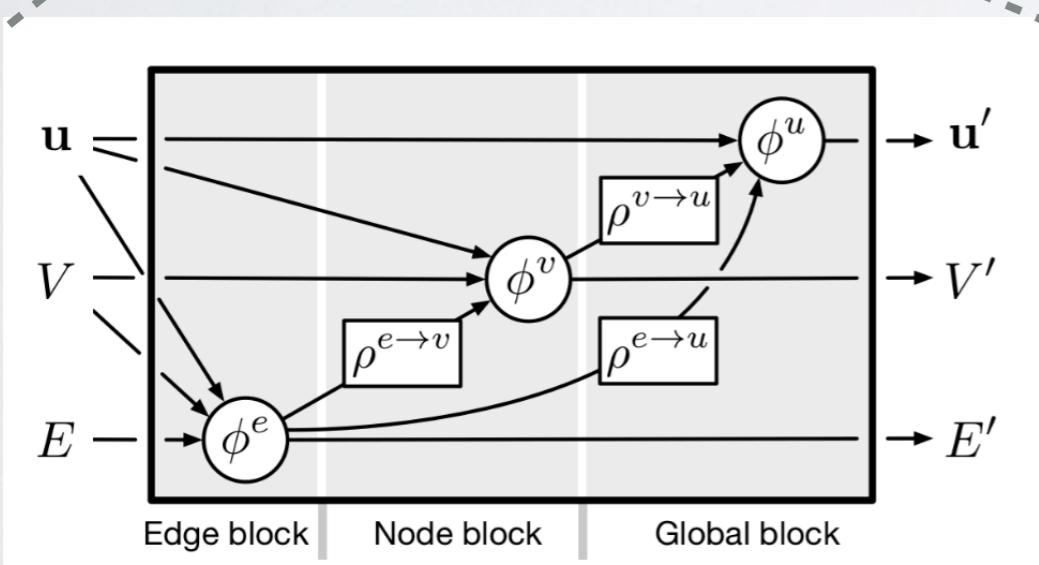
## Training data

|   | freq | valence |
|---|------|---------|
| C | 72   | 4       |
| C | 43   | 4       |
| C | 107  | 4       |
| C | 144  | 4       |
| O | -    | 2       |
| O | -    | 2       |
| N | -    | 3       |
| H | -    | 1       |
| H | -    | 1       |
| H | -    | 1       |
| H | -    | 1       |

per-vertex  
data

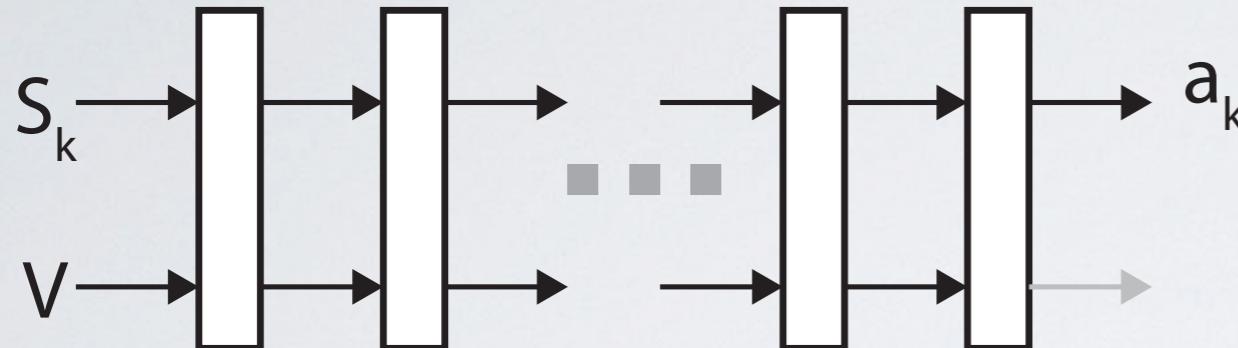


$S_k$



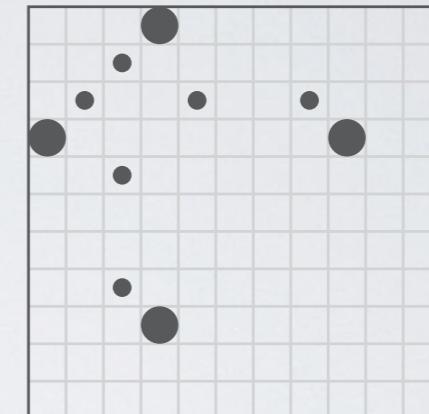
$$p(a_k \mid S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

## Relational network

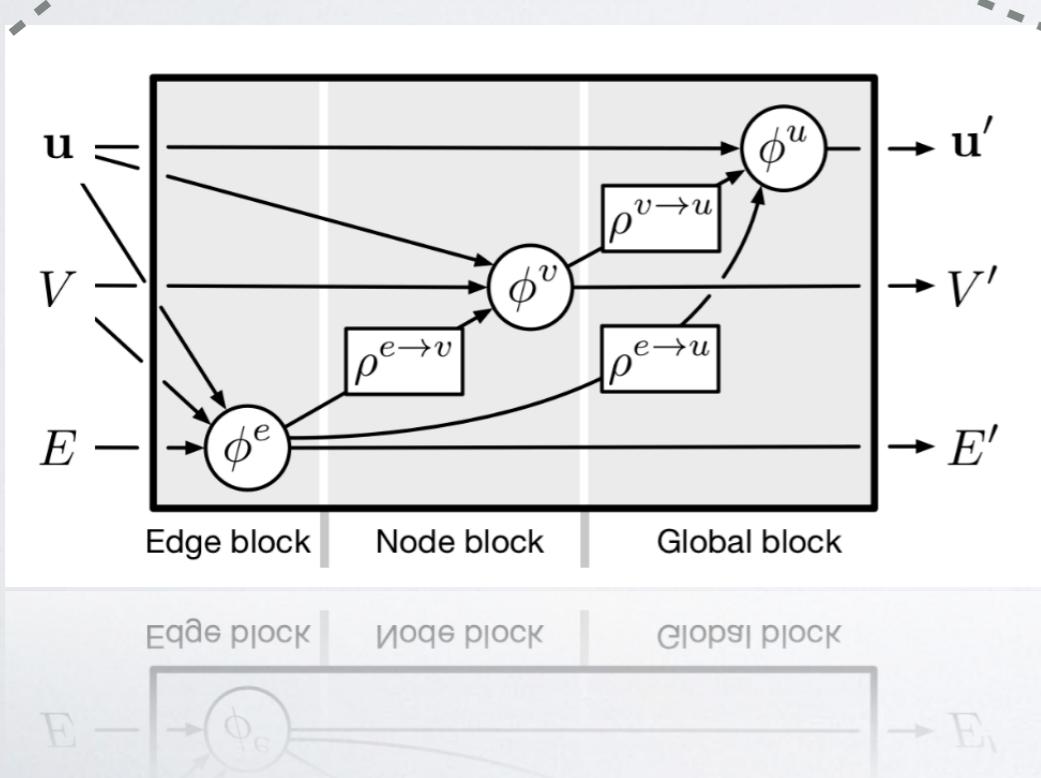


## Training data

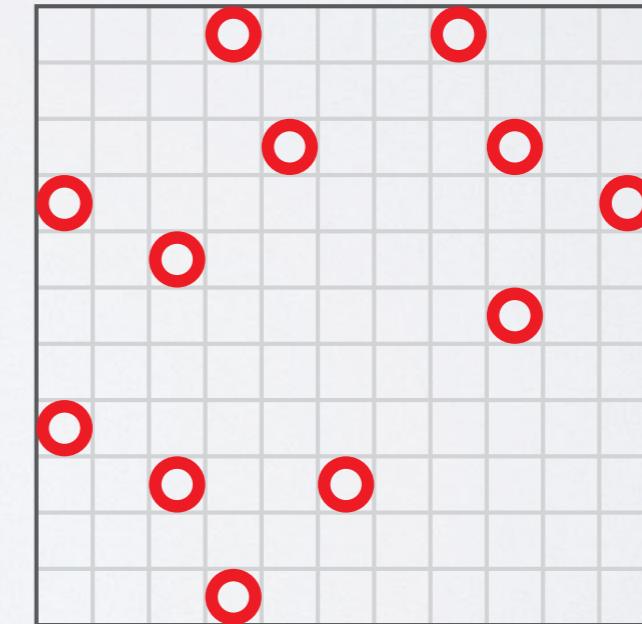
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| H | -    | 1       |
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per-vertex  
data



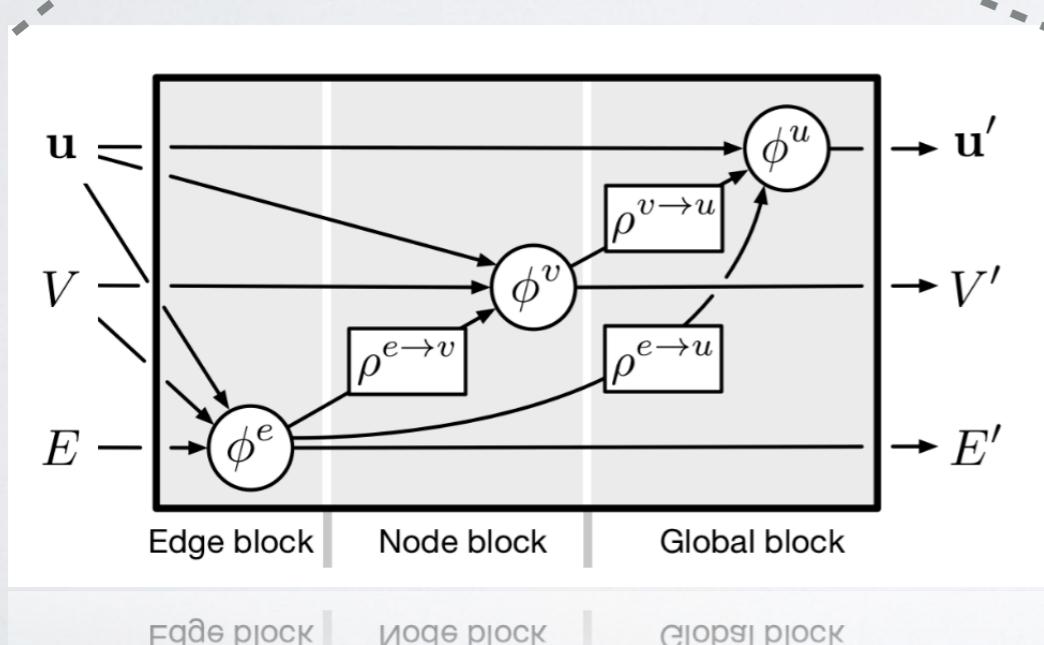
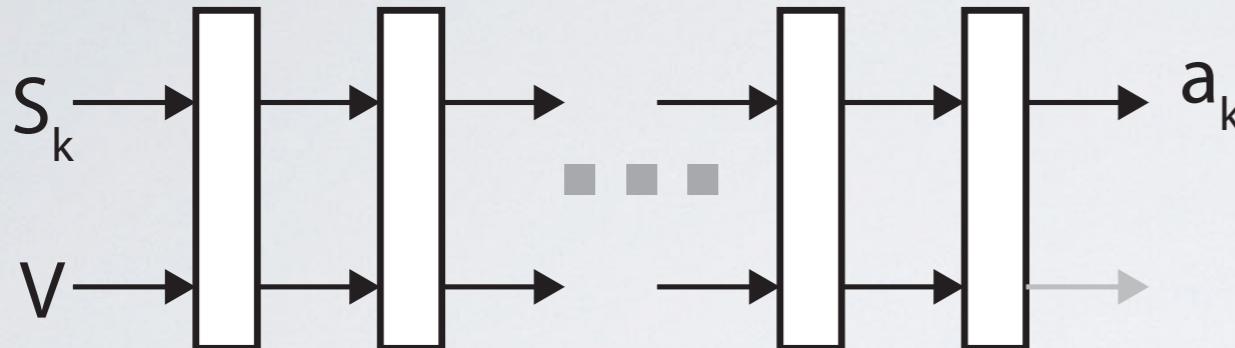
All valid next edges



\$a\_k\$

$$p(a_k \mid S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

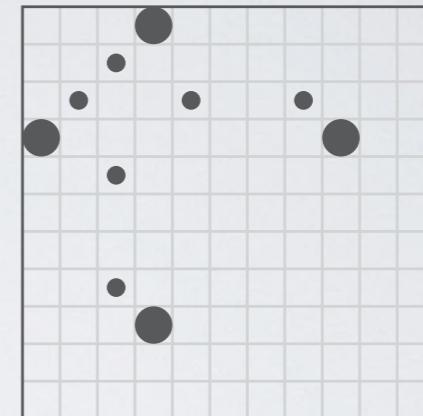
## Relational network



Train on 1.3M molecules in PubChem  
HCON, up to 32 heavy atoms  
<sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts

## Training data

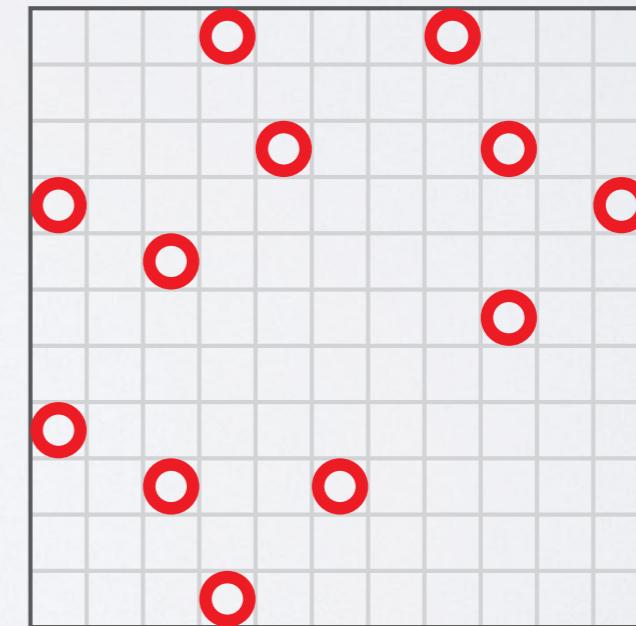
|   | freq | valence |
|---|------|---------|
| C | 72   | 4       |
| C | 43   | 4       |
| C | 107  | 4       |
| C | 144  | 4       |
| O | -    | 2       |
| O | -    | 2       |
| N | -    | 3       |
| H | -    | 1       |
| H | -    | 1       |
| H | -    | 1       |
| H | -    | 1       |



per-vertex  
data

$S_k$

All valid next edges



$a_k$

Say I've learned:

$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

What happens at test time?

Say I've learned:

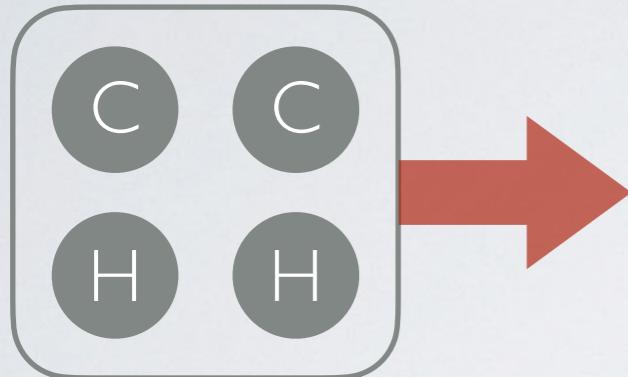
$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

What happens at test time?

C C H H ■■■  
132.4 73.1

Say I've learned:

$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

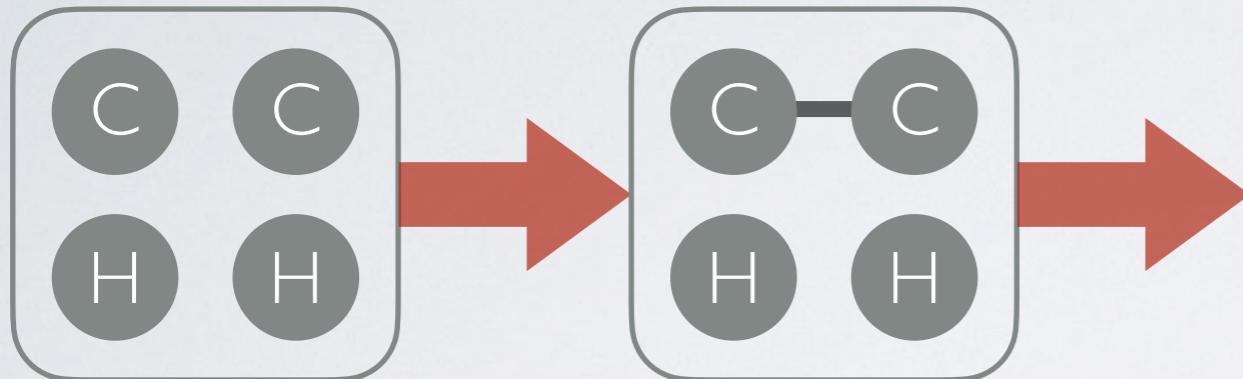


What happens at test time?



Say I've learned:

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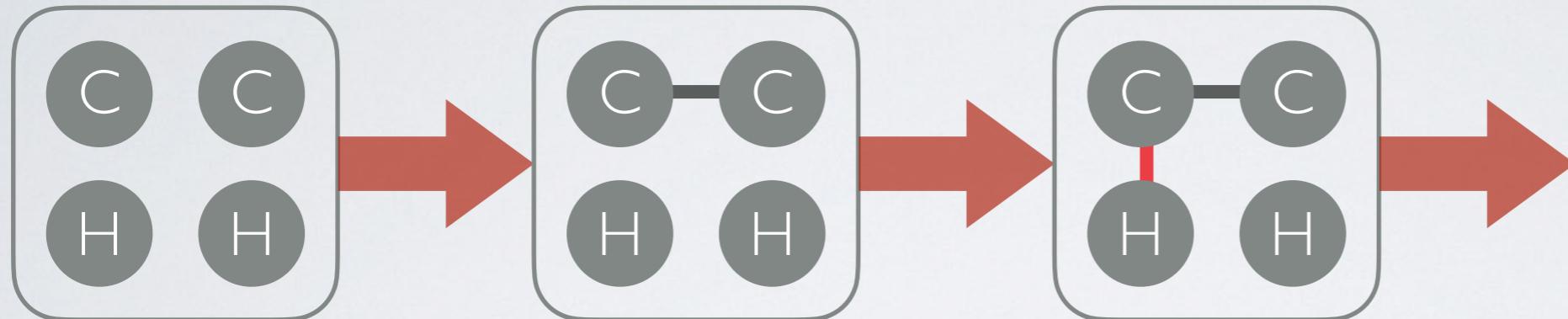
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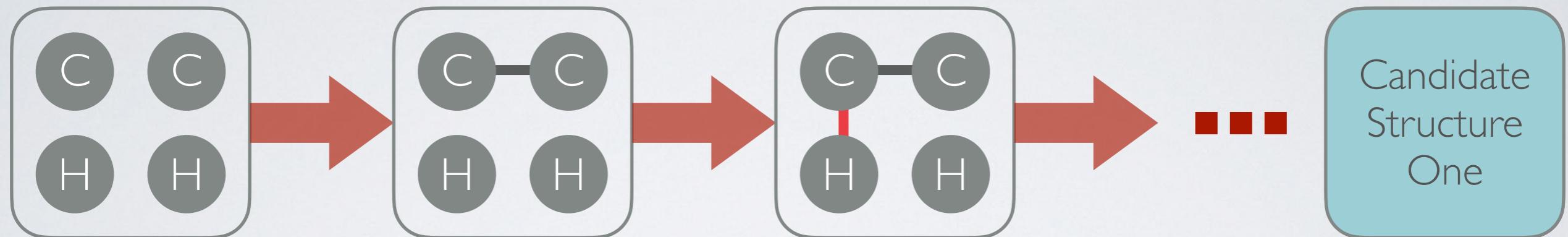
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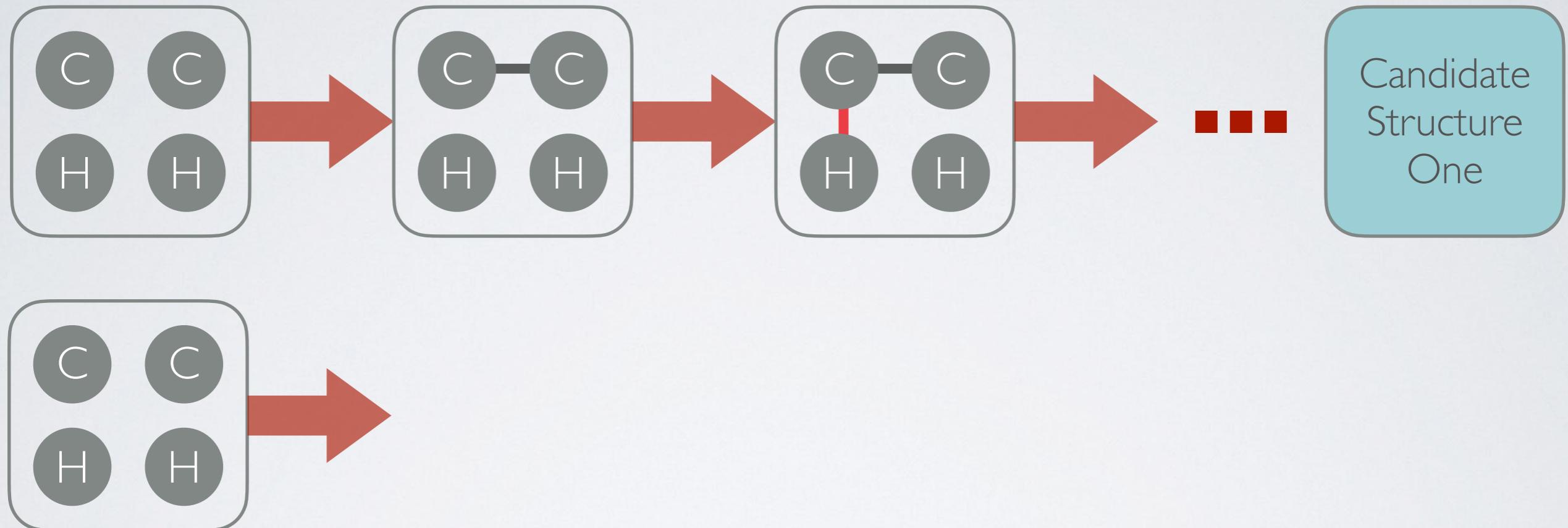
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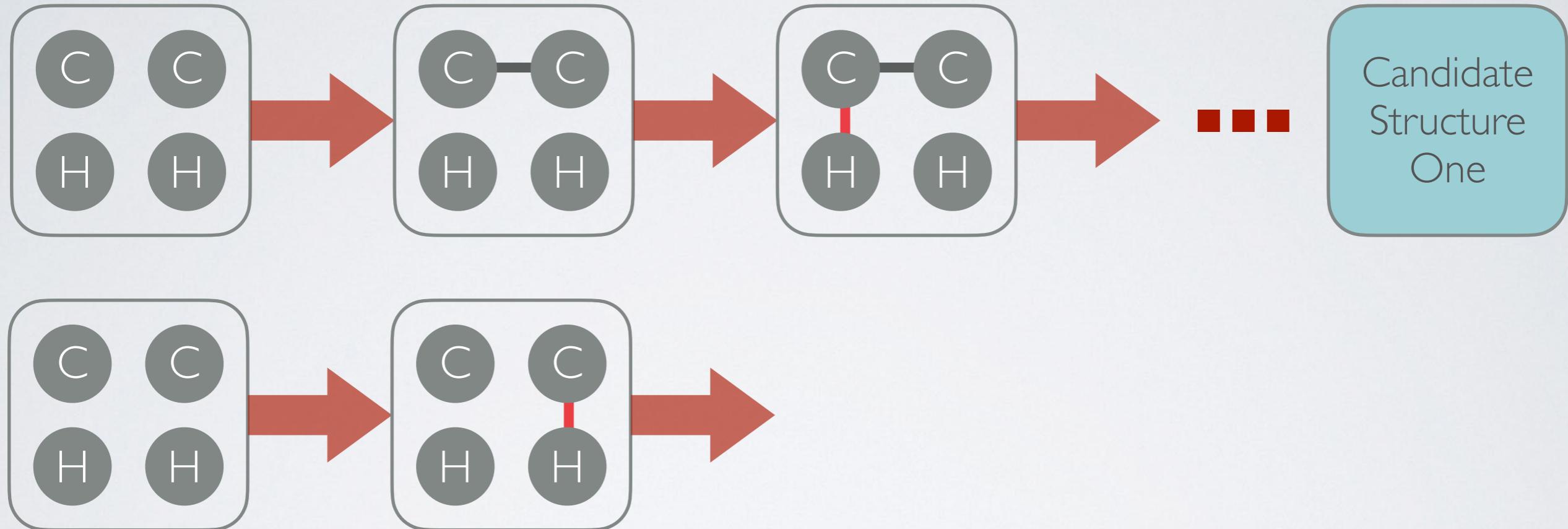
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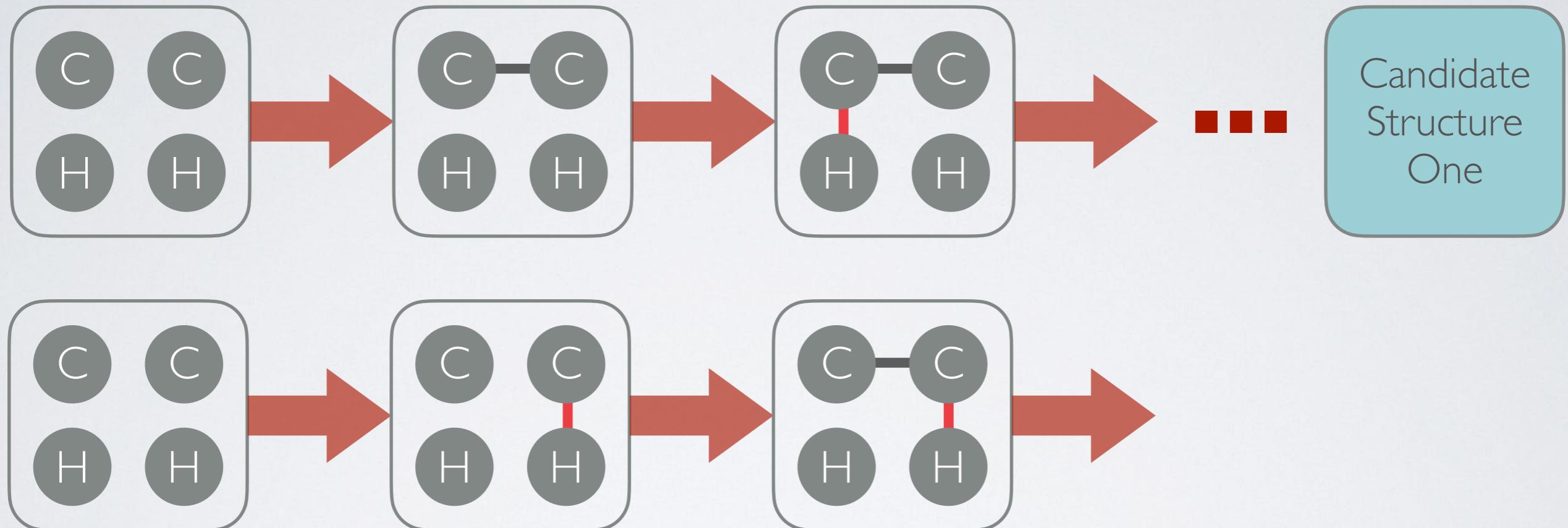
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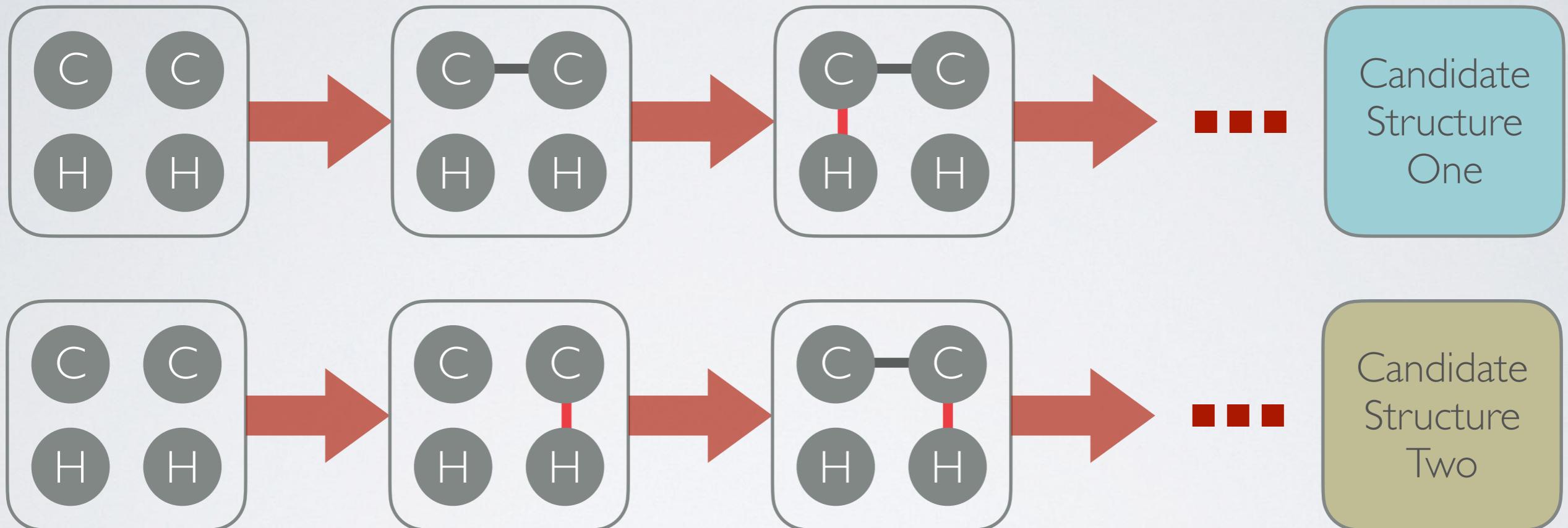
$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$



Say I've learned:

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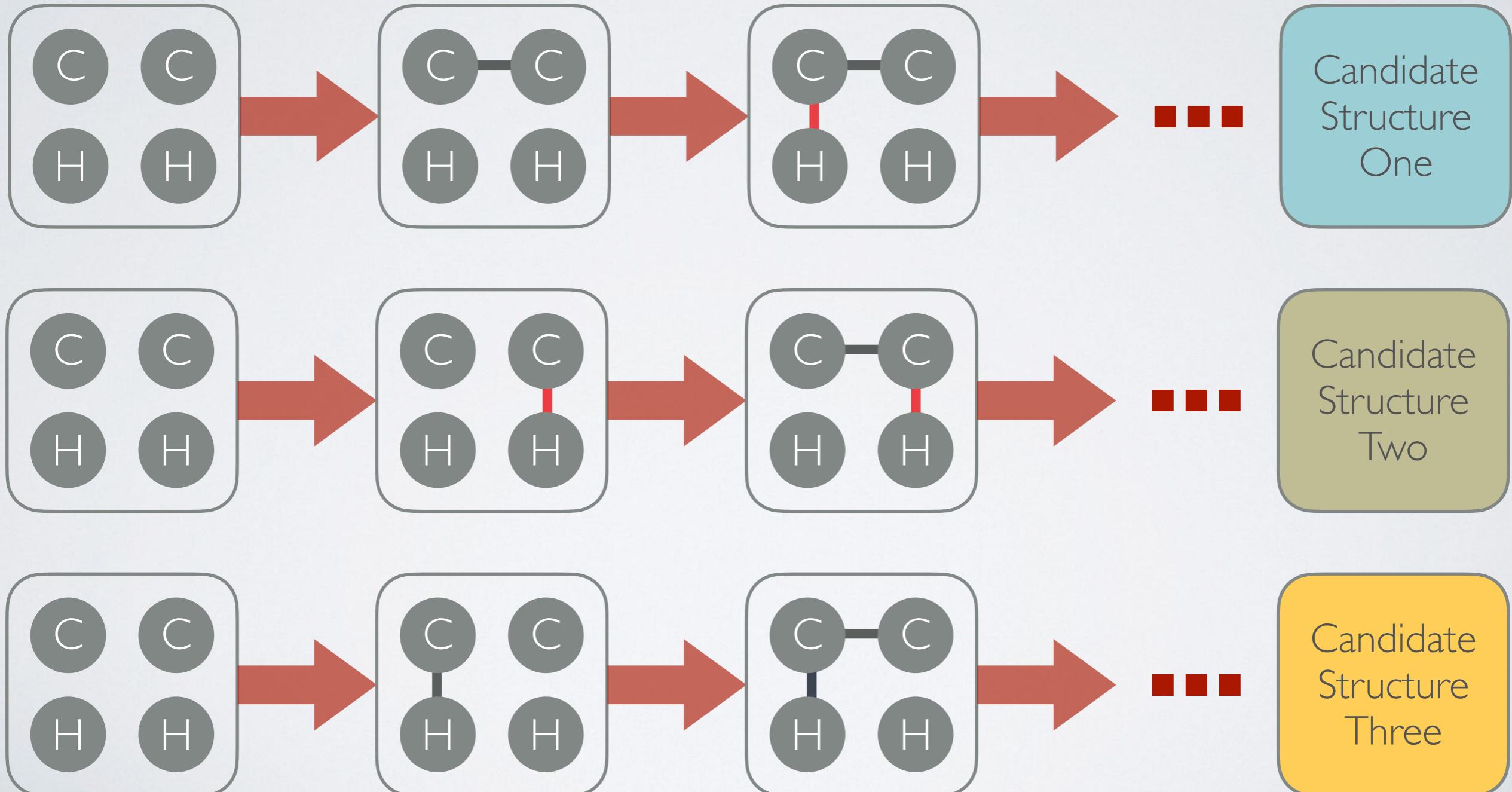
What happens at test time?



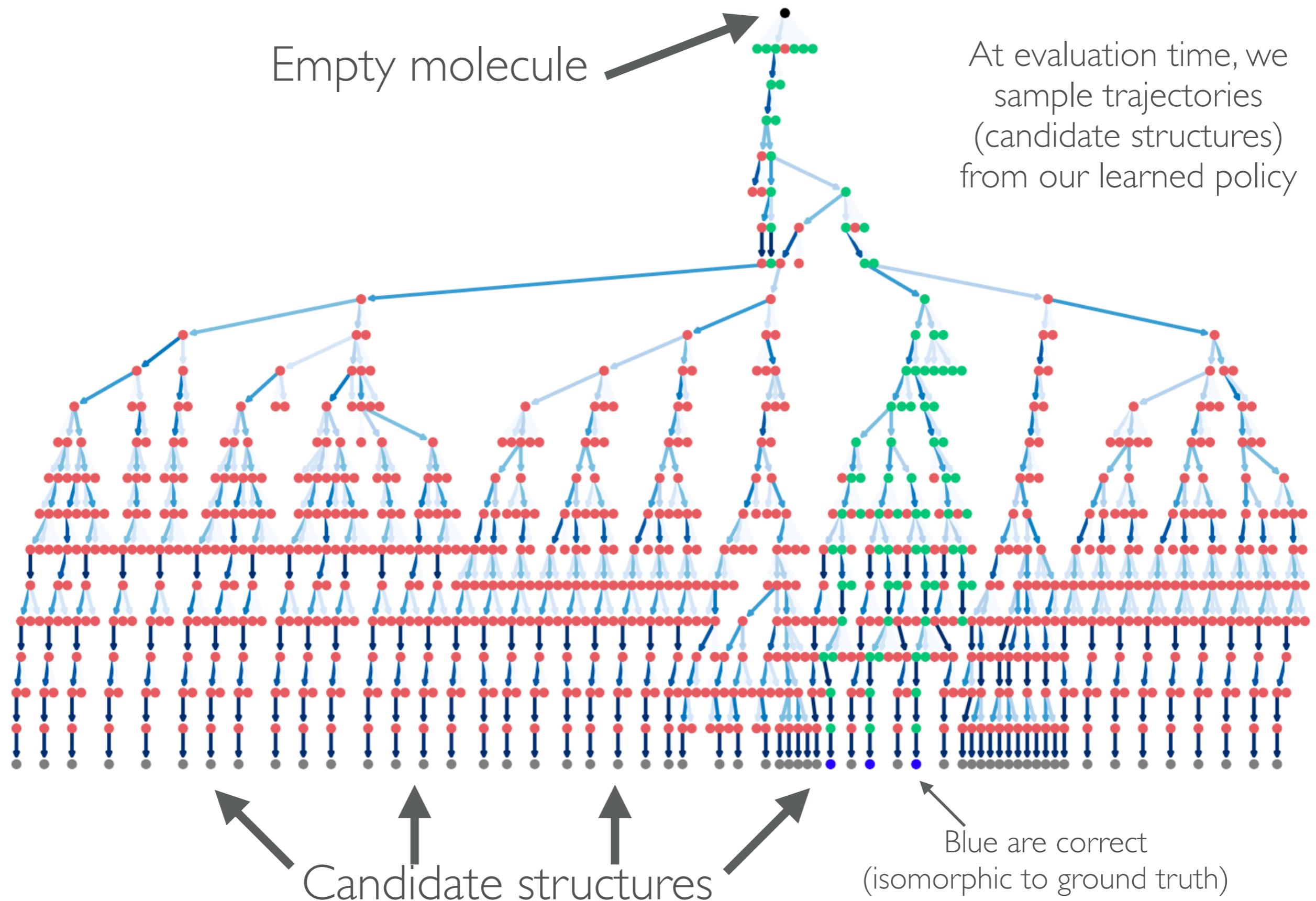
Say I've learned:

$$p(a_k | S_k, \text{spectrum})$$

What happens at test time?



# GENERATING MOLECULES



# PREDICTION WITH CONFIDENCE

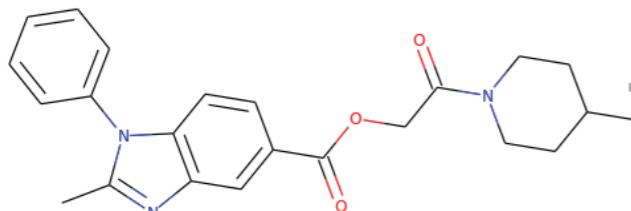
Is there any way to know which of our candidate structures is correct?

# PREDICTION WITH CONFIDENCE

Is there any way to know which of our candidate structures is correct?

## Candidate evaluation

### Recovered Candidates



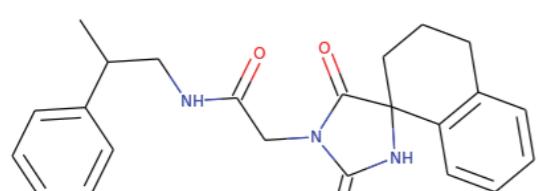
forward

### Observed Spectrum



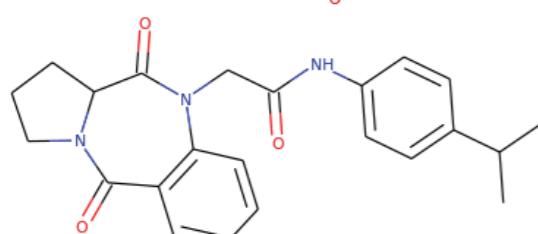
Spectrum  
Comparison  
MSE

0.17



forward

6.75

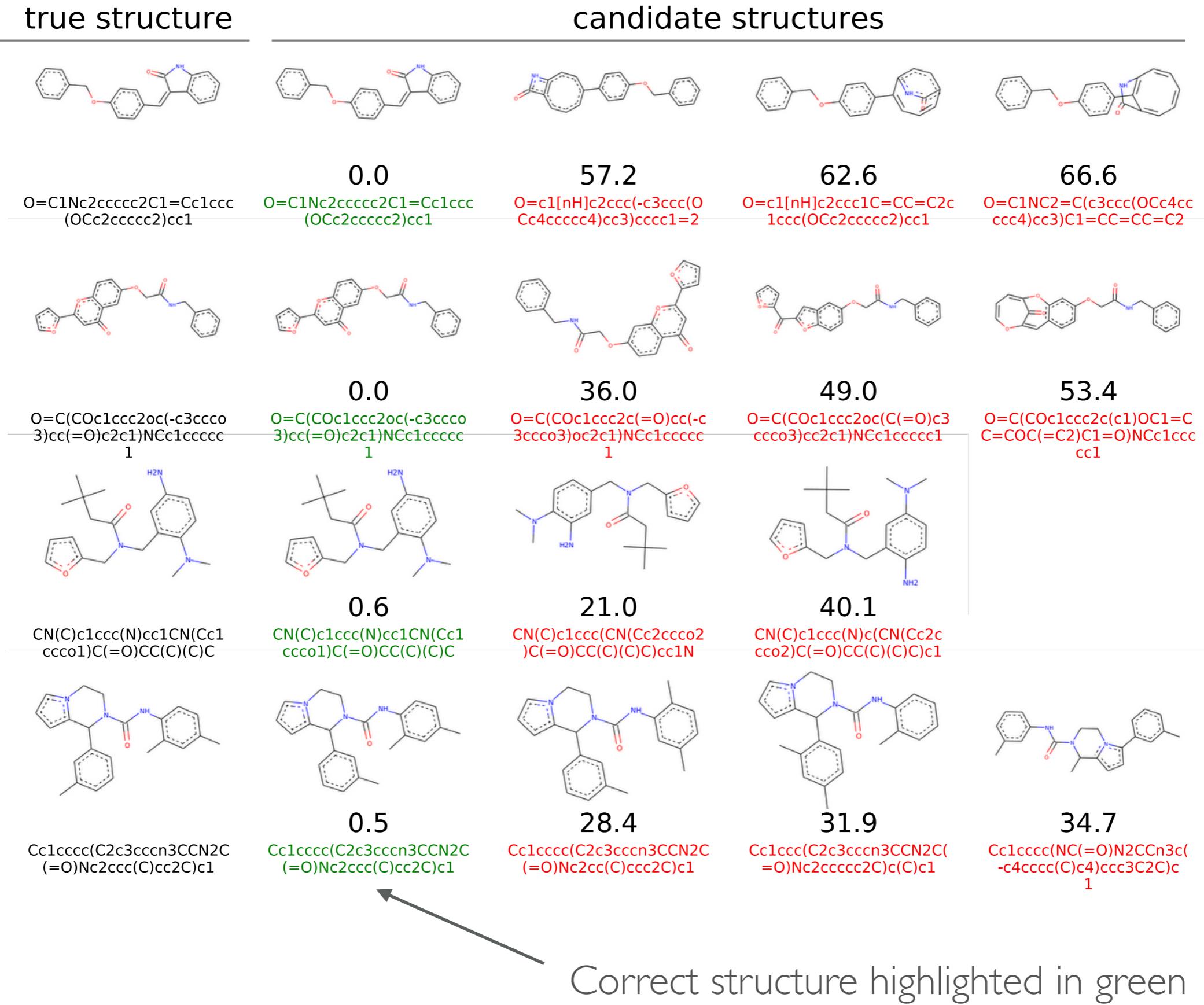


forward

8.19



# Example Reconstructions

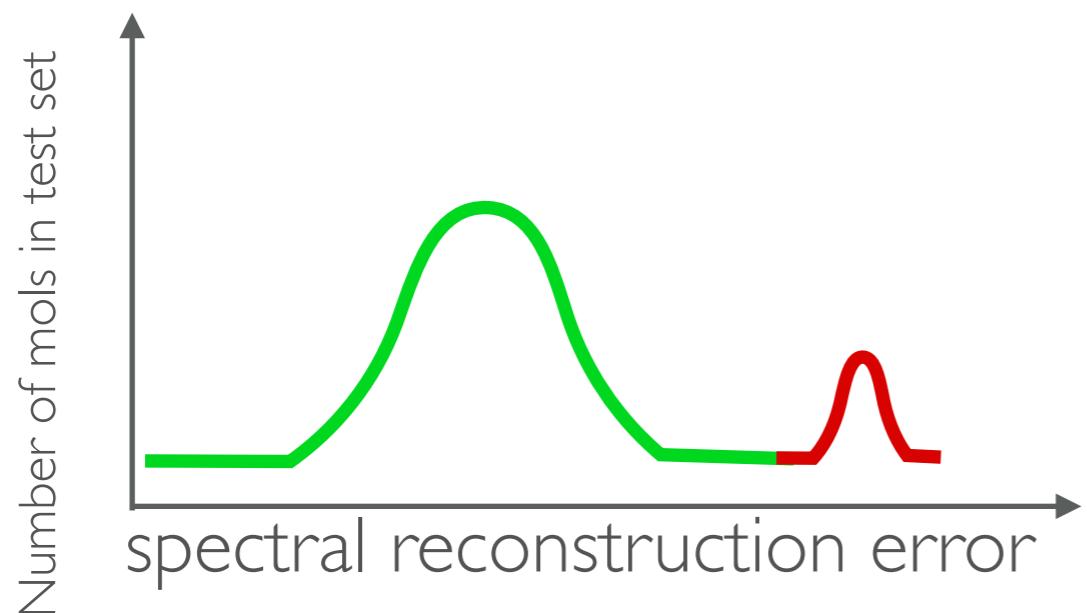


# TRADEOFF CURVE

For each molecule in the test set, we use the candidate structure with lowest spectral error as our “guess”

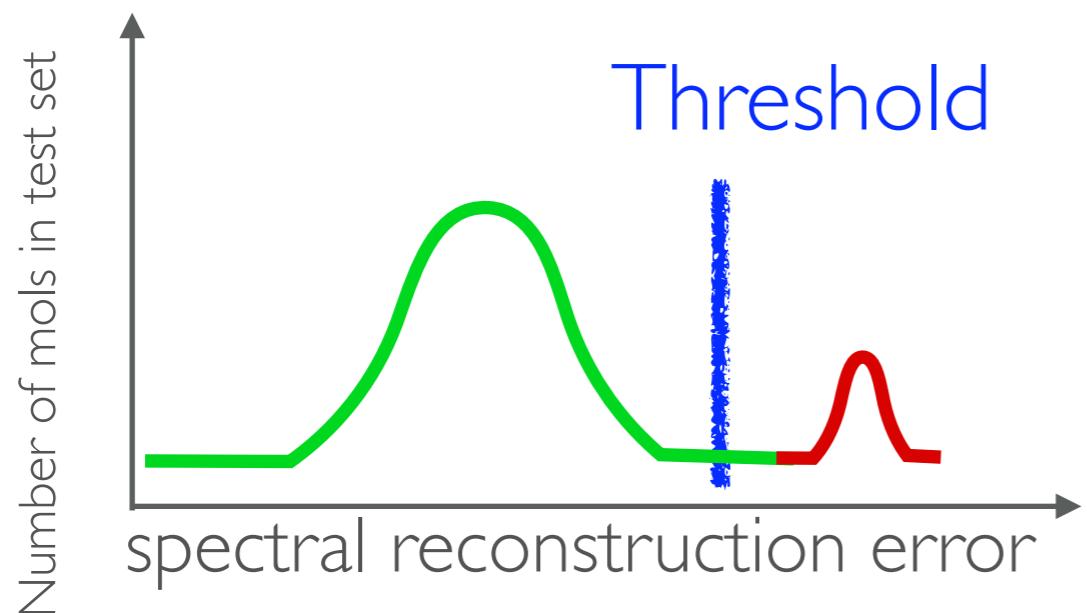
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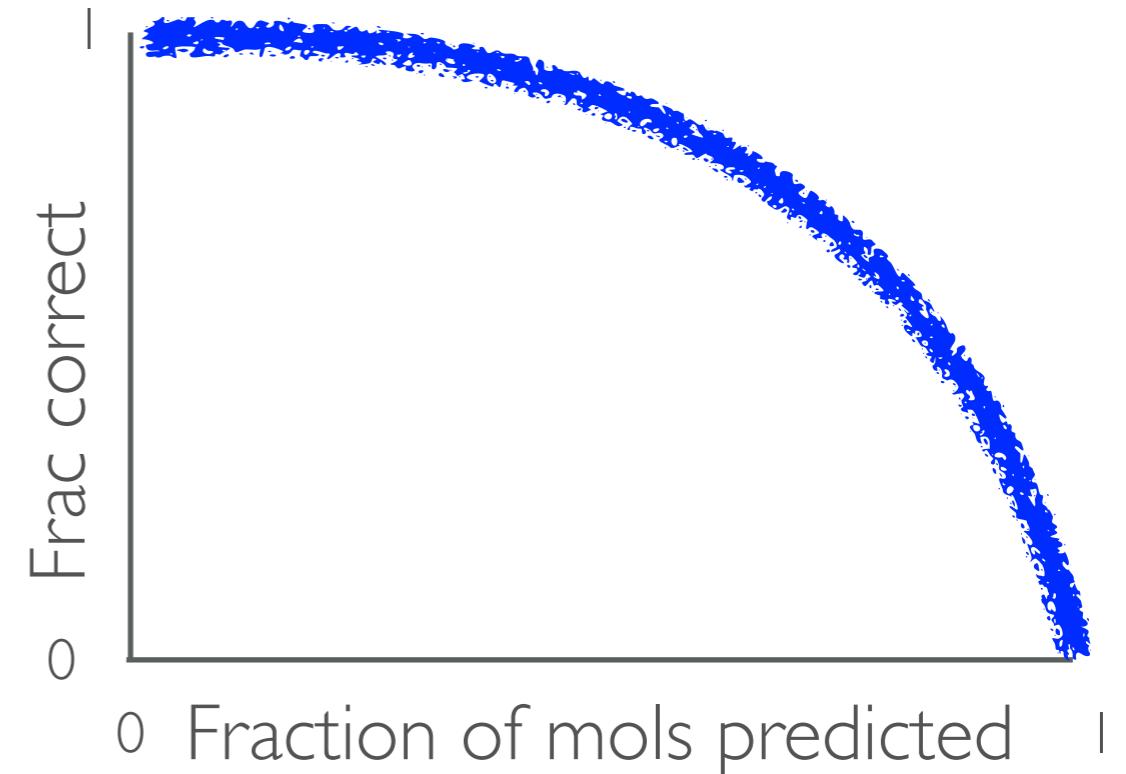
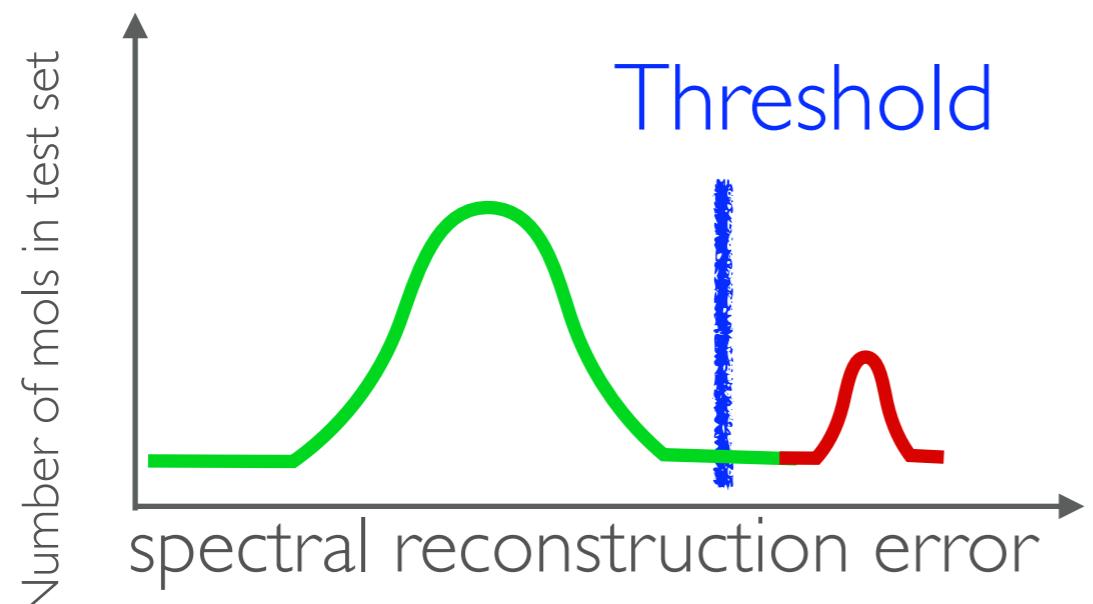
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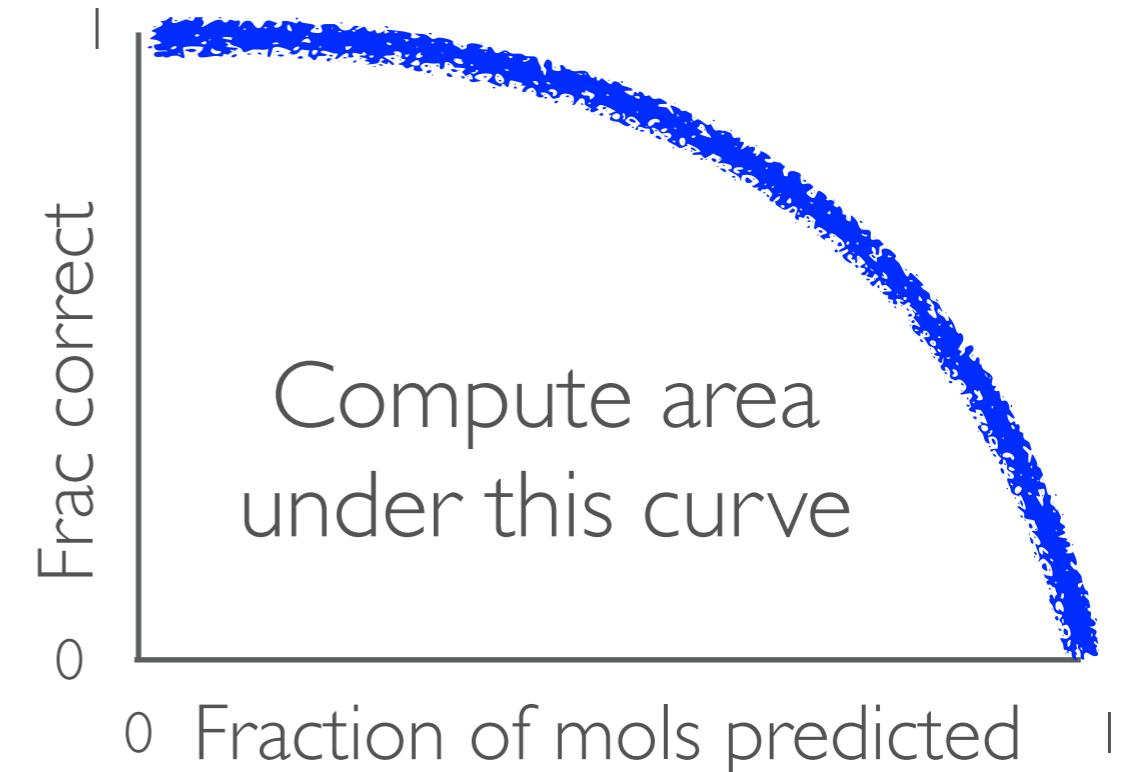
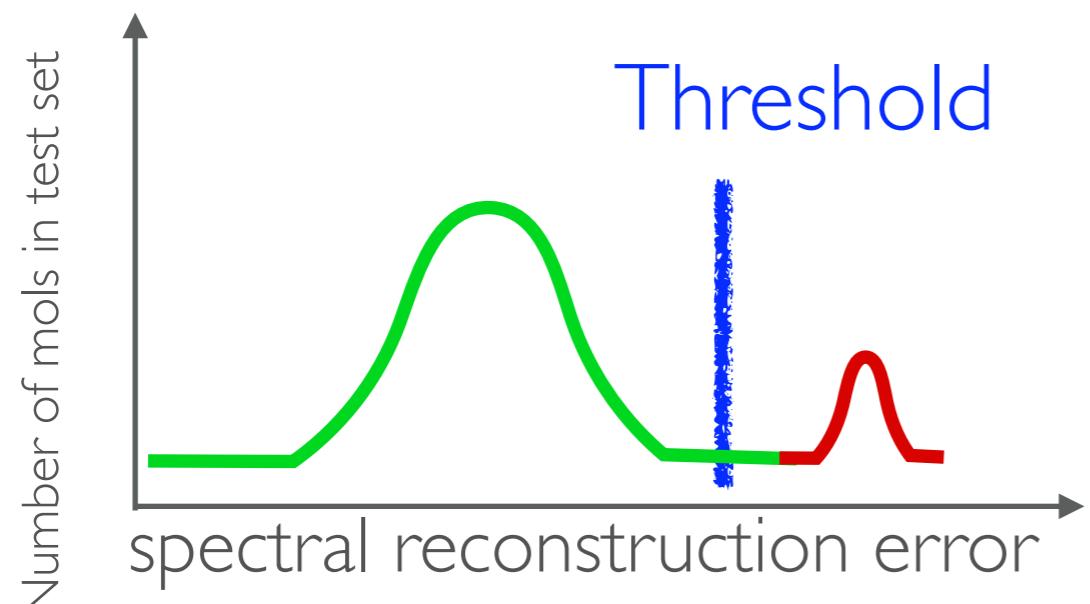
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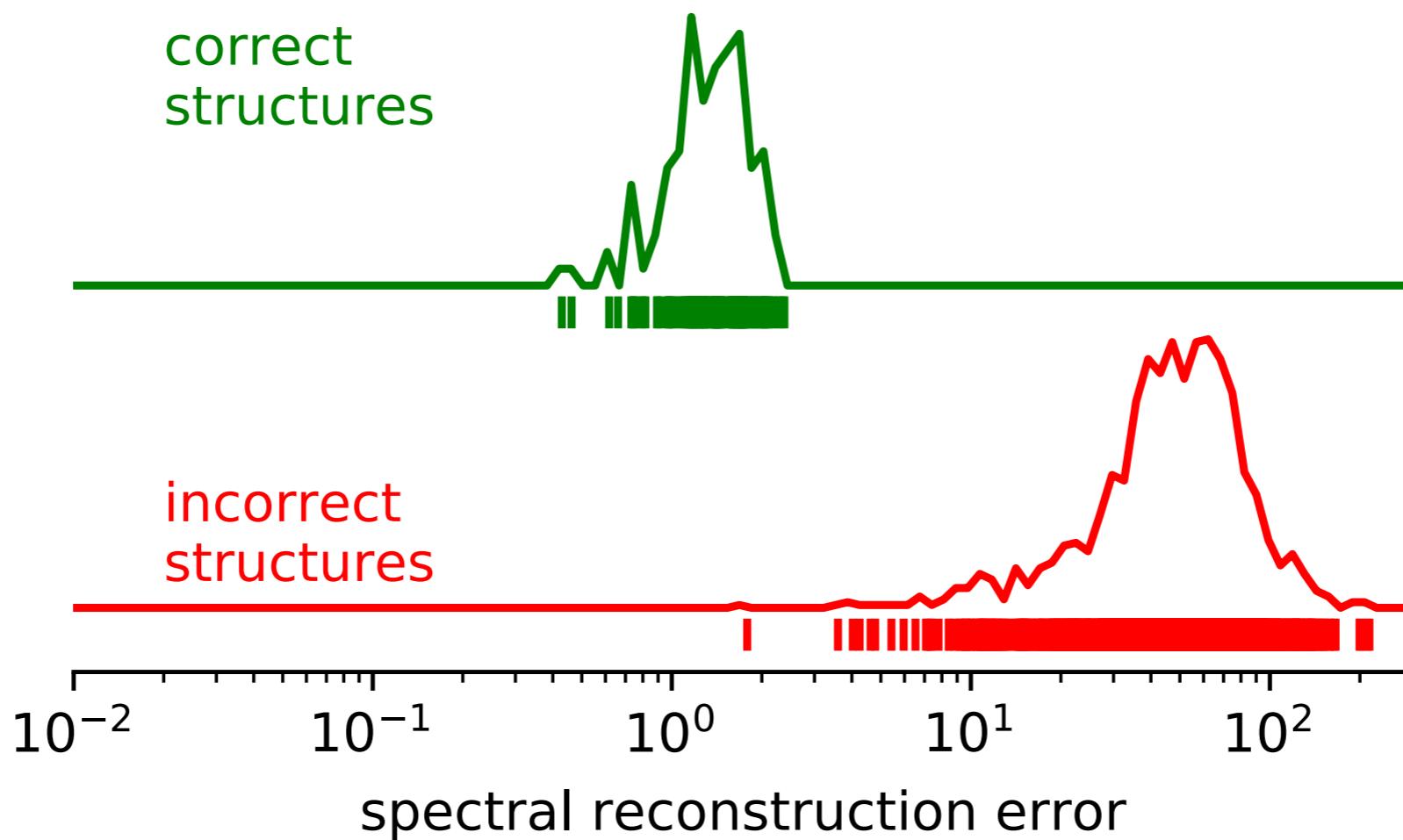
# TRADEOFF CURVE

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# TRADEOFF CURVE

candidate molecule  
forward model error histograms



# EXPERIMENTAL DATA

Now we're going to use real observed spectra  
(NOT predicted from our forward model)

Forward Model

Inverse Model

Train

Train

Test

Test

# EXPERIMENTAL DATA

Now we're going to use real observed spectra  
(NOT predicted from our forward model)

- Train on 1.3M molecules in pubchem
- HCON, up to 32 heavy atoms
- <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts

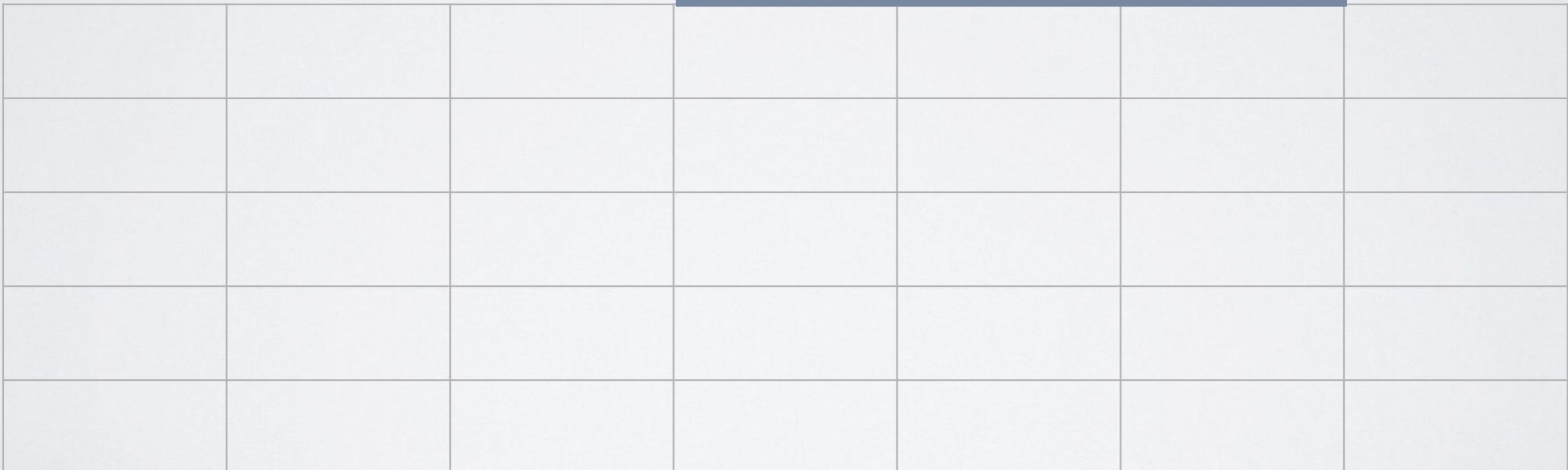
spectrum agreement  
percentile

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|        |         |     | spectrum agreement percentile |     |     |       |
|--------|---------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Foward | Inverse | AUC | 10%                           | 20% | 50% | Top-1 |
|        |         |     |                               |     |     |       |
|        |         |     |                               |     |     |       |
|        |         |     |                               |     |     |       |
|        |         |     |                               |     |     |       |
|        |         |     |                               |     |     |       |

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|        |         | spectrum agreement percentile |      |      |       |       |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Foward | Inverse | AUC                           | 10%  | 20%  | 50%   | Top-1 |
| Train  | Train   | 0.95                          | 100% | 100% | 99.2% | 79.5% |
|        |         |                               |      |      |       |       |
|        |         |                               |      |      |       |       |
|        |         |                               |      |      |       |       |

# EXPERIMENTAL DATA

Now we're going to use real observed spectra  
(NOT predicted from our forward model)

- Train on 1.3M molecules in pubchem
- HCON, up to 32 heavy atoms
- $^{13}\text{C}$  chemical shifts

|        |         | spectrum agreement percentile |      |      |       |       |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Foward | Inverse | AUC                           | 10%  | 20%  | 50%   | Top-1 |
| Train  | Train   | 0.95                          | 100% | 100% | 99.2% | 79.5% |
|        | Test    | 0.88                          | 100% | 99%  | 96.9% | 71.3% |
|        |         |                               |      |      |       |       |
|        |         |                               |      |      |       |       |

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|         | Test    | 0.88                          | 100% | 99%  | 96.9% | 71.3% |
| Test    | Train   | 0.91                          | 100% | 100% | 97.6% | 60.3% |
|         |         |                               |      |      |       |       |

# EXPERIMENTAL DATA

Now we're going to use real observed spectra  
(NOT predicted from our forward model)

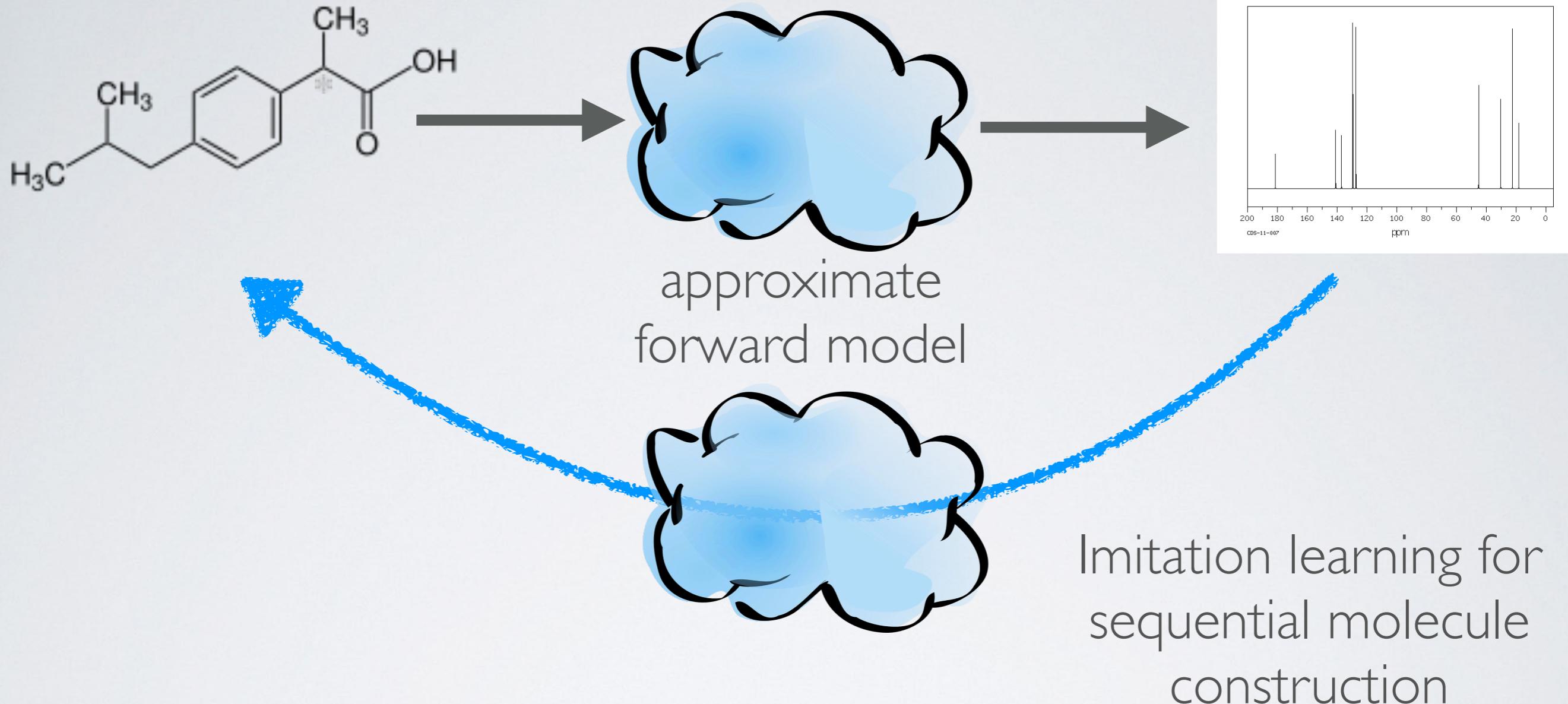
- Train on 1.3M molecules in pubchem
- HCON, up to 32 heavy atoms
- <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts

|         |         | spectrum agreement percentile |             |              |              |              |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Forward | Inverse | AUC                           | 10%         | 20%          | 50%          | Top-1        |
| Train   | Train   | 0.95                          | 100%        | 100%         | 99.2%        | 79.5%        |
|         | Test    | 0.88                          | 100%        | 99%          | 96.9%        | 71.3%        |
| Test    | Train   | 0.91                          | 100%        | 100%         | 97.6%        | 60.3%        |
|         | Test    | <b>0.83</b>                   | <b>100%</b> | <b>97.1%</b> | <b>90.2%</b> | <b>55.9%</b> |

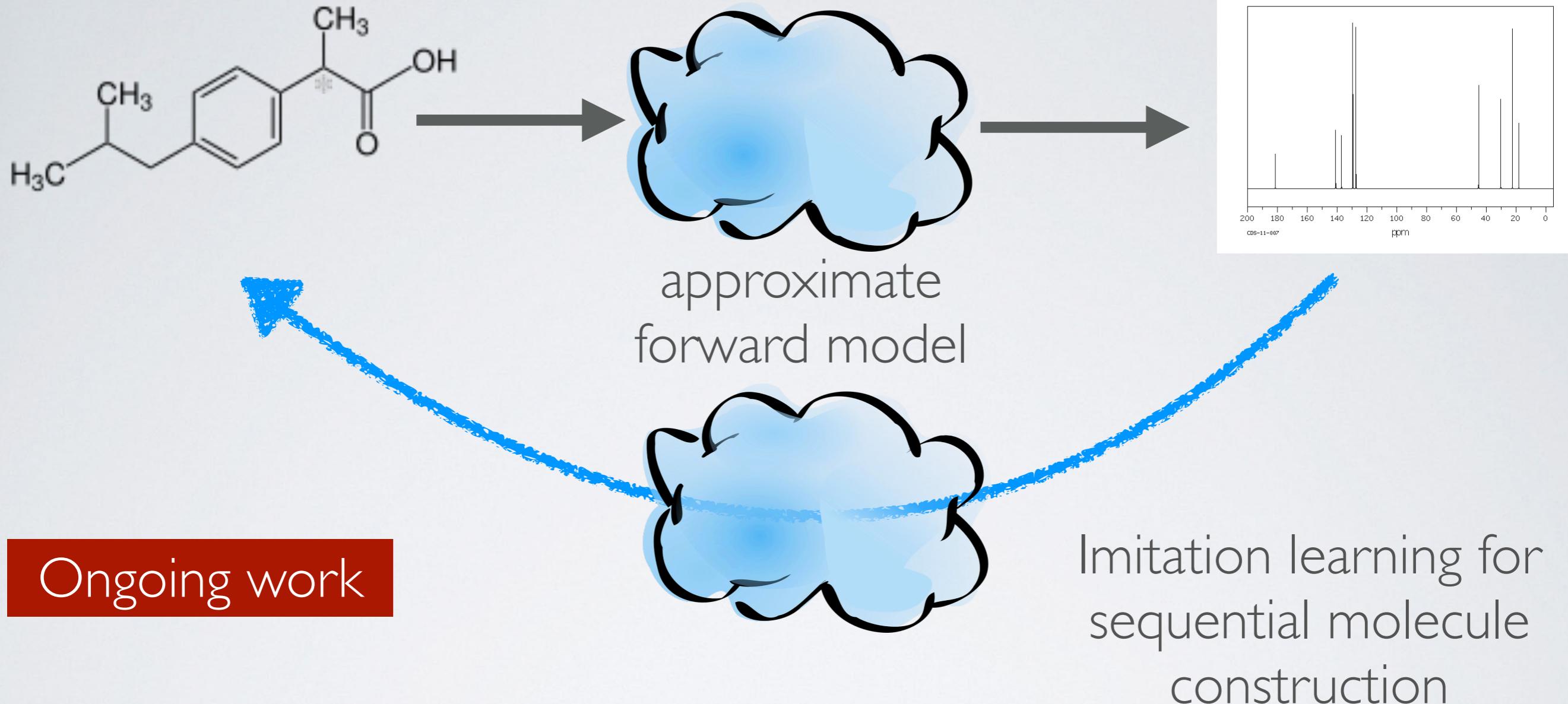


This is the most realistic scenario — neither the forward or the inverse model had ever seen this structure

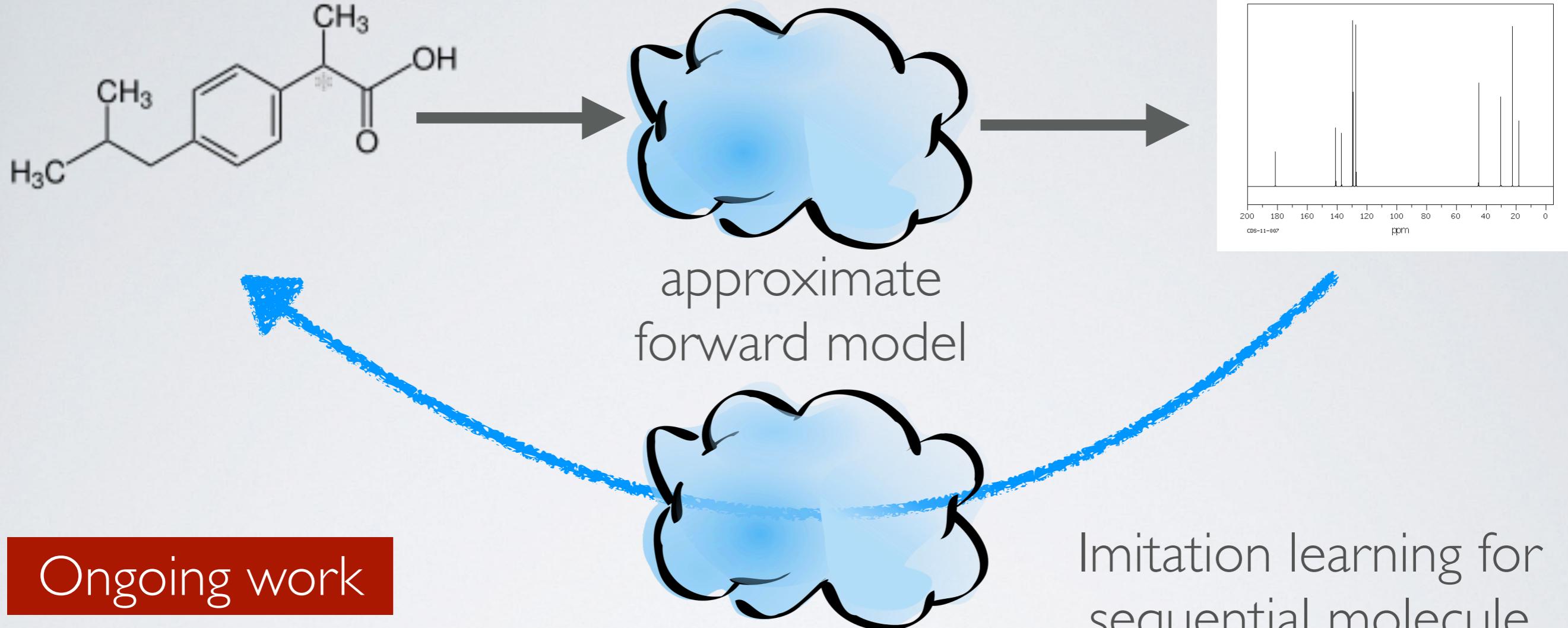
# NMR INVERSE PROBLEM



# NMR INVERSE PROBLEM



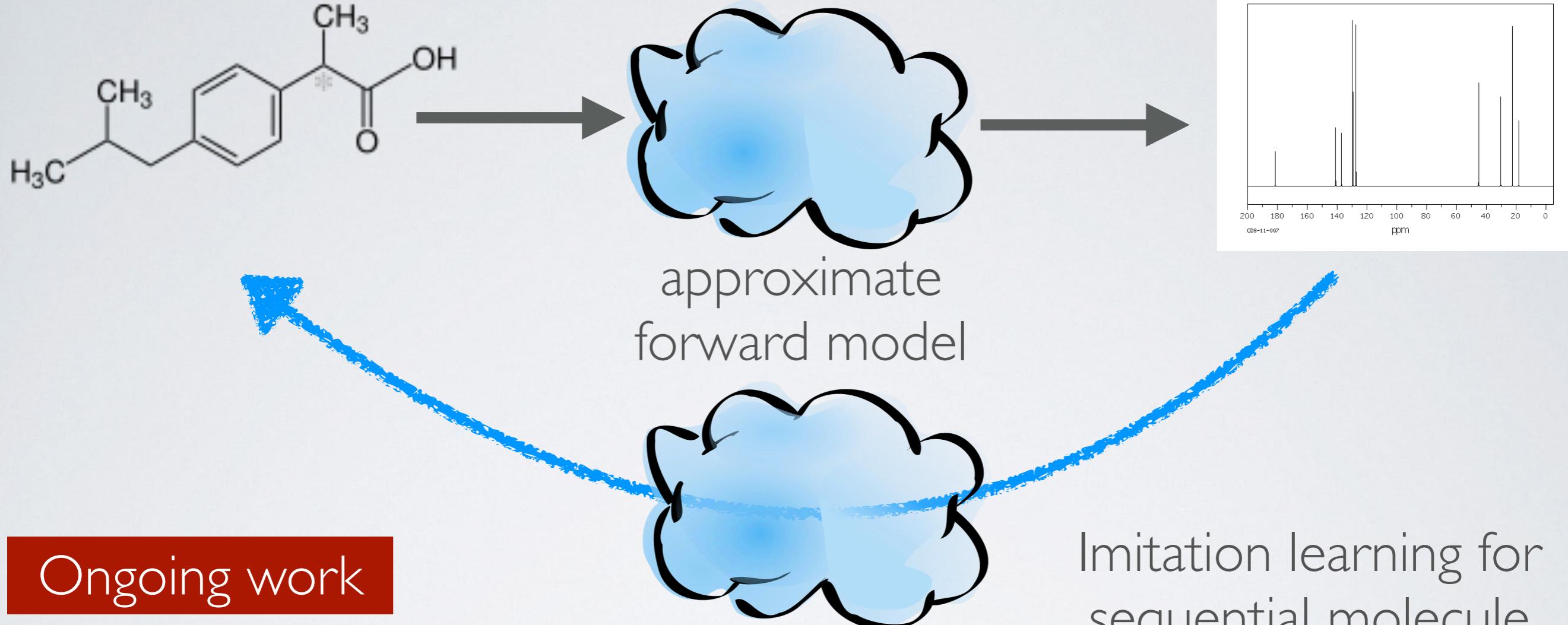
# NMR INVERSE PROBLEM



Imitation learning for  
sequential molecule  
construction

- Increase reconstruction accuracy by correcting for distributional shift

# NMR INVERSE PROBLEM

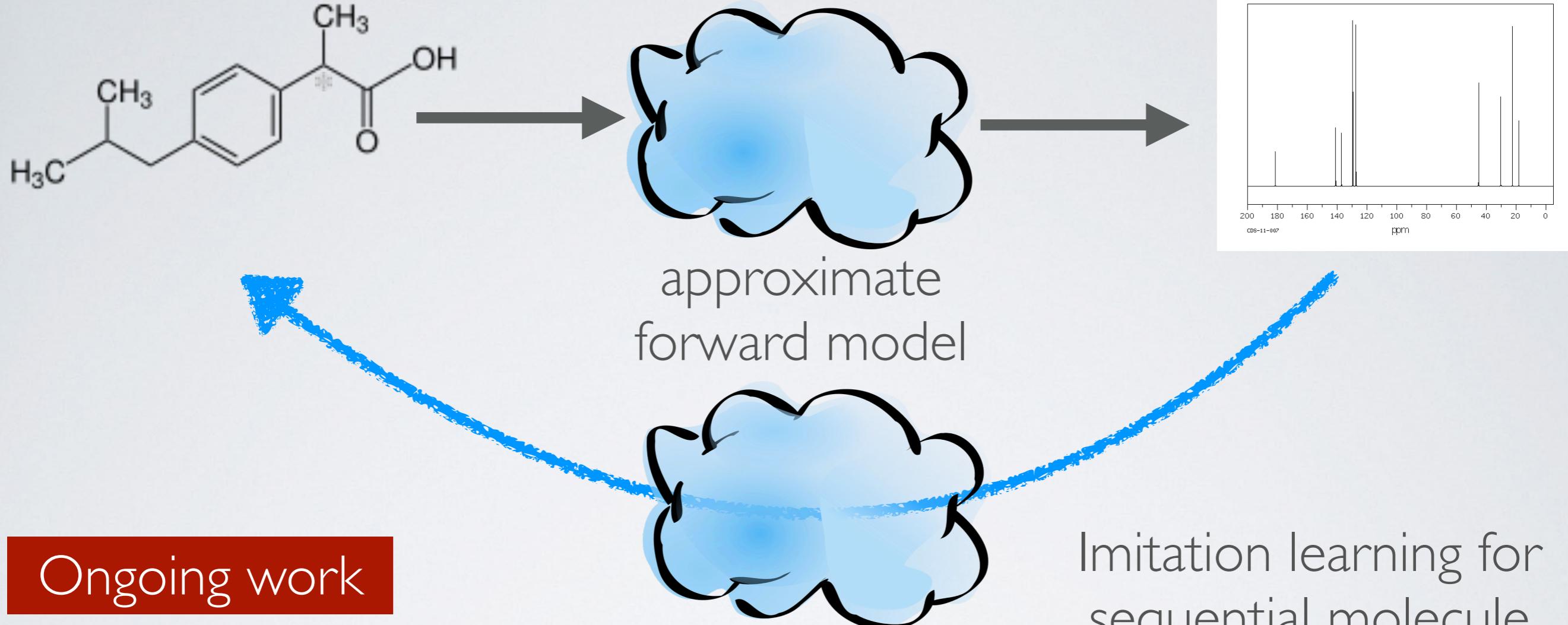


Ongoing work

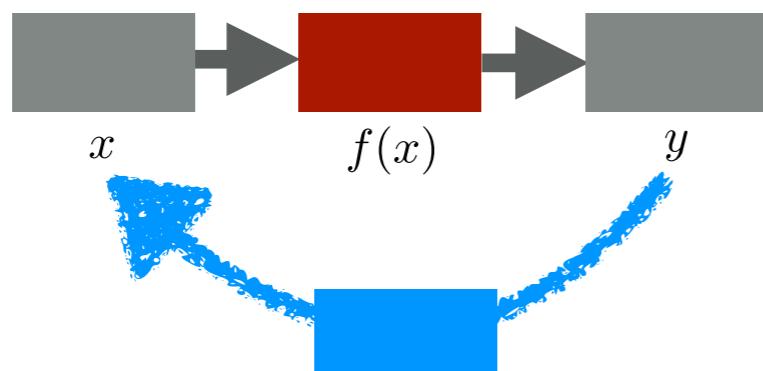
Imitation learning for  
sequential molecule  
construction

- Increase reconstruction accuracy by correcting for distributional shift
- Handle stereoisomerism and geometry

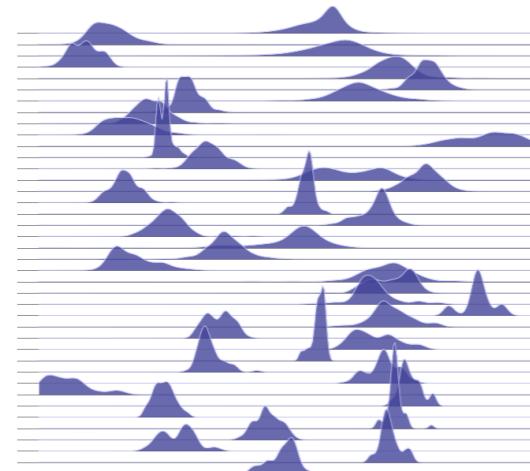
# NMR INVERSE PROBLEM



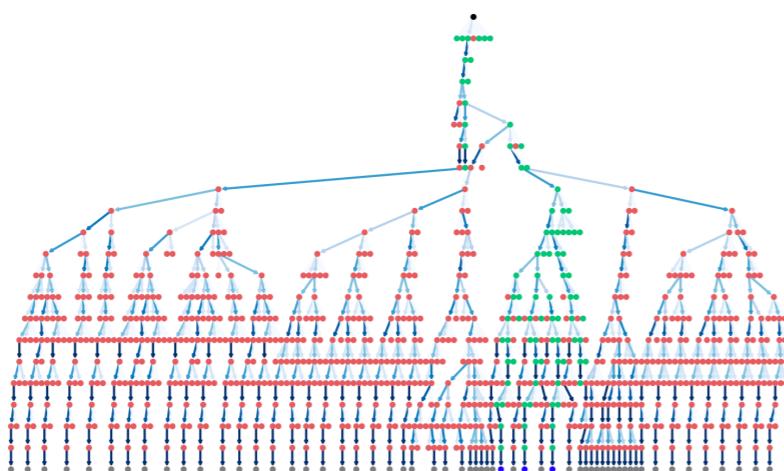
- Increase reconstruction accuracy by correcting for distributional shift
- Handle stereoisomerism and geometry
- Accelerate reconstruction speed



What are  
inverse problems?



Spectroscopy:  
The forward problem



Spectroscopy:  
The inverse problem

bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.06.07.500000>

# molecular inverse problems

## Spectroscopy and RDKit

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# THANKS